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JPRS-UMA-84-014

15 February 1984

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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15 February 1984

USSR REPORT

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

SECRETARY FEDOSOV ON KOMSOMOL ROLE IN ARMED FORCES

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 22, Nov 83 pp 1-3

[Article by V. I. Fedosov, Komsomol Central Committee secretary: "Young People's Sacred Duty"]

[Text] It is customary in our country to mark holidays with labor achievements. The Leninist Komsomol, which is currently celebrating its 65th Anniversary, also follows this tradition. The decisions of the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum and the regularly scheduled session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the conclusions and recommendations contained in the speech at the plenum of Comrade Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, CPSU Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, became for us an urgent program of action. The country's workers are making every effort to raise labor productivity to a new level and to use every opportunity to improve economic efficiency, accelerate scientific and technical progress, improve management, strengthen state, labor and artistic discipline and increase labor self-discipline and efficiency.

The words of Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov find a fervent response in the heart of each young representative of our society: "...now it is especially important and necessary for each worker to understand that fulfilling the plan depends also on his contribution, and for everyone to understand clearly the simple truth that the better we work, the better we will live." Selfless labor, excellent study, and exemplary military service--this is how the Leninist Komsomol and all Soviet youth are marking the 3rd year of the five-Year plan.

The patriotic movement entitled: "To the 11th Five-Year Plan--Diligent Labor, Study, Initiative and Creativity of Young People!" has become widespread. In Komsomol-youth collectives, strenuous socialist commitments and personal plans for increasing labor productivity have become a most important element of the personal comprehensive plans of participants in the Leninist Test conducted under the slogan, "Implement the Decisions of the 36th CPSU Congress!". Young People are participating in important matters, which are justifiably becoming part of the history of our country and people. Construction of the unique Sayano-Shushen GES is coming to a successful conclusion, and the hour is near when the rails on the last 500 km section of the gigantic Baykal-Amur Magistral will be connected. There are 135 All-Union Komsomol

construction projects of primary importance. More than 120,000 young men and women will take part in them through Komsomol excursions this year. Many detachments have already been dispatched, and among the volunteers are soldiers who have been released into the reserves.

For 6 and 1/2 decades the Komsomol has borne the proud and responsible title of assistant and reserve of the party. Party leadership guarantees the successes of the Leninist Komsomol, its successes in communist education of young people, and is the source of its strength and fortitude. The party is constantly concerned about the all-round development of the social and political activeness of our youth and about increasing its role in communist construction. The CPSU has always entrusted tasks of tremendous national importance to the Leninist Komsomol and the young men and women of the country. One of the most important tasks assigned to the Komsomol is the preparation of Soviet youth to defend their country; the participation of young Leninists in strengthening the defense might of the Fatherland.

Defense of the Socialist Fatherland is the primary duty of all Soviet citizens, including its young people.

Let us look back into the history of the Komsomol. There is no one among us who is not proud of the heroes of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and who does not admire the spirit and deeds of communists and Komsomol members who were heroes in war and labor. We admire them, sons and daughters of the working people who heroically fought for Soviet power. The romance of that already distant time is today our property; based on the example of the past generations we teach our young people patriotism and heroism. The three All-Russian mobilizations alone, which were carried out by the Komsomol during 1919-1920, provided the Red Army with 25,000 soldiers. Forever entered in the Komsomol annals are the moving words: "Raykom closed. All have gone to the Front." During the civil war, 200,000 Komsomol members fought at the fronts. For their courage and heroism displayed in battle against the enemies of Soviet power, 5,103 of them were awarded the high award, the Order of the Red Banner. The VLKSM banner is also adorned with this order.

16 October 1922. Responding to Lenin's call and to the resolution of the 10th Party Congress, the 5th RKSM [Russian Young Communist League] decides to become sponsor of the Navy. With what pride and hope they accompanied the first Red Navy Komsomol members who were given movement orders. Ninety percent of Navy call-ups in those years were RSKM members. They justified the hopes of their country.

1931. At the 9th Komsomol Congress yet another slogan is put forth: "Komsomolite--To the Airplane!" In response to the party summons on creating a strong air force, the Leninist Komsomol accepts sponsorship of aviation.

The Komsomol carried out preparation of young men and women to defend their Homeland in close contact with the voluntary defense society, Osoaviakhim [Society for Assistance to the Defense, Aviation and Chemical Construction of the USSR], and other mass organizations. A military technical examination was conducted during the pre-war years, which increased the activity of the mass movement of young Leninists to master military specialities. During

the exam approximately 1.3 million Voroshilov marksmen were trained, more than 20,000 young men and women accomplished parachute jumps from aircraft, and about 500,000 jumped from towers.

Young people trained to defend their Fatherland and learned military affairs with great persistence and purposefulness. And when the Great Patriotic War burst forth, the Komsomol stood side-by-side with the communists along with all the Soviet people.

The declarations of young patriots requesting membership in the Komsomol written on the eve of battle, are today carefully preserved in numerous museums and military and labor glory rooms. And the number of Komsomol membership cards shot through and covered with blood are beyond counting! "Laid on an enemy firing position and silenced it. Displayed heroism" is noted on Komsomol membership card No 17251590. Laconic and military in its severity. Behind it is the bright image of an immortal youth, Guards Private Aleksandr Matrosov. More than 40 years have passed since that time, and we cannot recall his name without being moved, for he personifies an entire generation of Komsomol soldiers.

Nikolay Gastello, Zoya Kosmodem'yanskaya, Viktor Talalikhin, Zinaida Portnova, Oleg Koshevoy, Marite Mel'nikayte, Yuriy Smirnov, Vera Voloshina, Mekhti Guseyn-zade, Klava Nazarova and many, many other young patriots wrote their names in gold letters in the history of their Homeland. The Leninist Komsomol is proud of them, and is bringing up new generations of Leninists based on the example of their lives.

For heroism displayed during the years of the Great Patriotic War, 3.5 million Komsomol soldiers were awarded orders and medals. More than 7,000 komsomol members and alumni were awarded the title, Hero of the Soviet Union. The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet awarded the Komsomol the Order of Lenin for its exceptional service to the Homeland during the years of the Great Patriotic War, and for its extensive work in bringing up Soviet youth in the spirit of utter devotion to their Fatherland.

The salvos of the victory salute have long since fallen silent, and the country has risen from the ruins through the labor and courage of its people. Now we are reminded of the war only by obelisks, monuments and the everlasting flowers on the soldiers graves and at the Eternal Flame, where soldiers, Pioneers and school children stand as Honor Guards. But the world is again uneasy. The imperialists are bent on making it so, unable to rest due to the successes in peaceful construction of the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community. The arms race, evil anti-Soviet slander, reliance on altering the balance of NATO and Warsaw Pact military forces in its favor, economic blackmail, psychological warfare, attempts to organize a new "crusade" against the USSR and world socialism--these today characterize the activities of the aggressive imperialist circles, first of all those of U.S. reactionaries.

The foreign policy of our state has immutable goals--to secure a permanent peace, defend the rights of peoples to independence and social progress and strengthen the socialist community. The Soviet Union always emphasizes its

readiness for open, honest cooperation with all states. However, the danger that imperialism will unleash a new war keeps on our agenda concerns about strengthening the defense capability of the USSR and the entire socialist community. As the party teaches, our sacred duty is constantly to strengthen the defense might of the country and the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces. Soviet youth are striving to mark the glorious 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people over Fascist Germany by strengthening their heroic labor and military-patriotic education, and by increasing the preparedness of young men and women to defend their Homeland.

Bourgeois ideologues are also "preparing" for this date, excelling in juggling historical facts and falsifying current events. It is no secret that they are counting on our youth, who they would wish to see as disappointed in revolutionary ideals. This obligates us to devote still more attention to class tempering of youth, and to inculcating in them political vigilance and feelings of historical responsibility for the fate of socialism.

One of the most effective comprehensive means of educating youth in historic traditions is the All-Union Expedition of Komsomol members and young people to places of revolutionary, military and labor glory of the Communist Party and the Soviet people.

The Expedition involves "lessons in courage," heroic and patriotic teachings, labor "assaults," competitions for banners and pennants named after heroes, and intensive work for themselves and for those fallen at the revolutionary barricades and in battles on the fronts of the Civil and Great Patriotic wars.

Many responses reach the Komsomol Central Committee and the editors of young people's newspapers and journals to the publication in our press of 40 year old letters from the wartime trenches and of veterans' diaries and memoirs. They help people more completely understand the sources of heroic deed and direct them to new areas of inquiry.

How did the Komsomol members of the "October" House of Culture from Podol'sk and the 53d Moscow Special School become involved in this search? Materials from the All-Union repository of letters from the front located in the Central Komsomol Archives were published in the journal "Yunost" in its latest publication of "Pamyat." The letters of two friends, Moscow school children Genrikh Konasevich and Anatoliy Belov excited our young contemporaries. They did not live to see victory. Genrikh died from wounds in a hospital. The fate of Anatoliy remained unknown; he was missing in action. Investigations of field post office numbers, conducted with the help of employees of the USSR Ministry of Defense Archives, established the unit in which A. P. Belov had served. Then some fellow soldiers of Anatoliy were found, and they determined from his last letter that at the time the regiment had been in battle at Zaporozh'ye, and that the tracks of the soldier should be sought there.

At a solemn meeting of investigators with veterans of the regiment not long ago, relatives of Guards Sergeant Anatoliy Belov were presented attestations to the medals "For Valor" which the soldier had been awarded in March and April 1943.

Many such examples can be cited. Heroic and patriotic work in Komsomol collectives became noticeably more active after similar reports in KOMSOMOL-SKAYA PRAVDA, SMENA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and other publications. The questionnaire, "Podvig" [Feat], in SOVETSKIY VOIN enjoys great popularity among young people. In it heroes of the Soviet Union share their life experience, discuss how they came to accomplish their feat of valor, and also give advice to young people on how best to prepare themselves for military service. You see, patriotic education is also educating a future soldier who is courageous and merciless toward his enemies.

Komsomol organizations participate closely in implementing primary military training of young people. They help military commissariats, education organs and leaders of enterprises, establishments, kolkhozes and sovkhozes in developing and equipping training points and offices, and they fight to ensure that Komsomol members set examples in mastering military and technical knowledge and strengthen discipline among inductees. This work is carried out in close coordination with DOSAAF.

Results of this coordination were clearly displayed at the DOSAAF 9th All-Union Congress, which convened in February of this year. Today DOSAAF numbers 355,000 primary organizations, containing 103,000 people, most of whom are young people. Owing to the skills obtained in DOSAAF vehicle, technical, naval, radio-technical and combined technical schools and air and naval clubs, inductees entering the service are quickly drawn into the rhythm of military life and raise their class qualifications. Young people are also tempered physically in DOSAAF, and develop definite moral-psychological qualities necessary for soldiers.

The party is devoting attention to intensifying its work in physical training of pre-draft and draft-age youth and in extensively familiarizing them with technical and military related sports. Frequently young fellows still enter the army who are not able to set up on the horizontal bar, lift weights, or run the required distance in military equipment. This is our fault and we are doing a lot to overcome these shortcomings. A year ago the Komsomol Center Committee announced a Komsomol three-year plan of construction and reconstruction of the simplest sports buildings. Gymnastic settlements, game courts, obstacle courses and shooting ranges are being built in schools, residential micro-districts and vocational and technical colleges. I believe that soldiers released into the reserves can and should give considerable support to this great and important venture. Their skills and experience both in constructing equipment and in matters of physical training are essential to the organizers of mass physical education efforts.

Many soldiers participate in mass defense work, transfer their experience and knowledge to those who are preparing for military service, work as detachment leaders, and help in technical circles and sections and in the conduct of the military sports games "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok." The schools of young cosmonauts, sailors, tankers, missilemen, border guards and radio operators which operate in many military training institutions enjoy great popularity. There are so many who desire and deserve to participate that selection is carried out based on the highest yardsticks. We are grateful to military leaders, commanders, political officers and soldiers for the

tremendous assistance given to the young people's patriotic formations and clubs. We can boldly call our army the young people's older friend; a friend who is faithful, exacting and strong.

The GTO [Prepared for Labor and Defense] Complex is a most important means of young people's physical education. The motto of Soviet physical culture specialists, "Prepared for Labor and Defense of the USSR," most fully and vividly characterizes the patriotic thrust of our physical culture movement and stresses its most important social and economic functions. The Leninist Komsomol will continue to achieve a further increase in mass participation in the Soviet physical culture movement, for will, strength, courage, daring and sharp wit have always distinguished the defender of our Homeland. It is the duty of the Komsomol to endow the young citizen with these traits.

The Komsomol of the USSR Armed Forces is the military detachment of the Leninist Komsomol. It has been charged to operate in one of the important and responsible directions of communist construction--to guard the peaceful labor of the people with weapon in hand. This mission is difficult and honorable. The Soviet soldier is worthily carrying out his military duty on the grey banks of the Arctic Ocean the Pamir Mountain slopes, the burning sands of Turkestan, the Far Eastern hills, and as a member of forces deployed in a number of the European socialist countries and the Mongolian Peoples' Republic.

He is unselfishly assisting in the defense of the revolutionary gains of the Afghan people. This once again shows the world that our soldier-patriot, a soldier-internationalist, who has inherited the heroic traits of those who stormed the Winter Palace, the enthusiasts of Magnitka and Komsomol'sk-on-Amur, the courageous defenders of Moscow and Stalingrad, the developers of the Virgin Lands and the builders of Bratsk and KamAZ [Kama River Automobile Factory].

Komsomol members are in leading positions in army and navy service: day and night they stand duty at missile control panels and radar screens, plow the atmosphere and the depths of the ocean, and tirelessly learn the difficult science of victory. They are always prepared to rebuff the enemy and at any moment to respond to the intrigues of the imperialists.

It is written in the resolution of the Komsomol 19th Congress: "Komsomol organizations in the Armed Forces of the USSR are to support the further growth of the political consciousness of the young soliders, and inculcate in them utter devotion to the Homeland, the party and the people, courage, patriotism and internationalism, and the ability to overcome difficulties. They are to increase the responsibility of VLKSM members for their irreproachable personal example and faultless fulfillment of their oath and military regulations. Each young soldier must master perfectly modern military weapons and equipment and observe the demands of military discipline. The Komsomol organizations are to strengthen friendship with the soldiers of the Warsaw Treaty Organization armies."

Army and Navy Komsomol members are fulfilling this resolution of the Congress with honor. One in three of them holds the high title of an "excellent" soldier in military and political training, and one in two is a highly qualified specialist. In maintaining comparability to communists, Komsomol members are leaders in socialist competition under the motto: "Increase Vigilance, Reliably Ensure the Security of the Homeland!" They are pioneers in many patriotic initiatives, which help them better fulfill Lenin's behest to "study military matters realistically."

Army life is stern and wise. Here character matures and the heart is tempered. It is always a place of courage, bravery and noble deeds. The country and the people know about them, about the courageous and brave, and are proud of them.

Let us recall heroic recent deeds of servicemen. Military men came to the aid of those suffering from floods and courageously fought the elements and won--these were the Baltic Sea sailors. Previously troops from the Far East did likewise. To go to people's assistance is a noble tradition of military Komsomol members.

Here looking at us from the first page of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA is a smiling young man in the uniform of a flight school student with the Order of the Red Star on his chest. This is Sergey Dronov. Many experienced pilots were amazed at how he was able to save his aircraft, skillfully to land the unresponsive, silent and cumbersome craft in a wheat field from an altitude of more than 1,000 meters. As a matter of fact, the "ground" had ordered him to eject. He had confidence in his abilities. His Komsomol character and loyalty to his duty would not allow him to act otherwise.

We also remember the story about Lieutenant Aleksandr Stovb on the pages of MOLODOY KOMMUNIST, and his poem:

Do you know how the dictionary defines the word "death?"
As a natural process of physical decline...
That is why I hurry to succeed,
and spare myself not, in the name of the cause.

And he did not spare himself. To the end he fulfilled his international duty, and his Order of Lenin will brighten the lives of many who will follow his example.

The story, "Komsomolki," about Lieutenant Yukhin, a dapper platoon leader, and his subordinates, Komsomol members Jr Sgt Aleksandr Burtsev and privates Batyr Baygel'dyev, Yegor Gokshteder and Boris Radchenko stirred young hearts. They stood in especially high esteem among the residents of Volgograd. How many bombs, shells, and mines, unexploded and decrepit, these young hands disarmed! And what courage, skill, bravery and composure they had to display in order to handle the one-and-a-half ton bomb, hidden deep in the earth next to the sheet-rolling shop of the "Krasnyy Oktyabr" factory! And when an explosion of uncommon size roared outside the city, many thought about military exercises, and this again brought to mind the war.

The words of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, CPSU Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, at a recent meeting with party veterans overflowed with fervent faith in the enthusiasm of Soviet young people: "...each new generation is in some way stronger than the one before; it knows more and sees farther.... Time is on the side of youth. And this is how it must be. It is important only to be assured that in our stead come people who will in no way forgo the banner of October and the ideals of Lenin, and who know their work thoroughly and well."

These words place great demands on the young generation of the land of the Soviets. And it will apply all its efforts in order to be worthy of the heroic history of its Homeland and honorably justify the great faith of the party and the nation.

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CSO: 1801/151

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY LIFE: SELECTIONS, REPORTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col V. Veselkov: "Depths and Shallows"]

[Text] At first glance the activity in this group on the concluding seminar on Marxist-Leninist training was high: someone immediately expressed a readiness to answer each question posed by the examiner. And the presentations were distinguished by completeness and validity.

But then the examiner himself called on one of the students and gave him a question. There was a pause immediately, and then a confusing and muddled explanation followed. New questions, by now for other students, and again very superficial answers. In which regard individual important problems pertaining to subjects which had been covered during the training year could not be disclosed profoundly and in a well-reasoned manner even by comrades whom the group leader, Lieutenant Colonel P. Rybin, had systematically praised.

The examiner learned later: in preparing for the concluding seminar each of the students selected a question on which he spoke later. Did the group leader know of this? He knew. But he looked at this through his fingers and even looked somewhat sympathetically. He believed that because they were so busy the officers were unable to master all questions of the training program with equal depth....

Shortcomings of this type were also disclosed in the group for Marxist-Leninist training which is led by Lieutenant Colonel A. Kopytko. It often happened that in the course of the year here they prepared for the seminars hastily. However, after each regular lesson the leader made notes in his journal that the subject had been well mastered by the students. But on the concluding seminar the examiner gave them considerably more modest grades not without justification.

One more fact. Major A. Yesikov of the group which is led by Lieutenant Colonel L. Kravets was considered outstandingly successful and an exemplary student for a long time. He kept lesson abstracts painstakingly, spoke on the seminars, and demonstrated scholarship and erudition. And suddenly the following surprise: Yesikov was called to strict party and service account for unworthy conduct and dishonesty. By the way, was it unexpected? For Lieutenant Colonel Kravets knew the Yesikov's behavior does not always correspond to the high standards

of our morality. Nevertheless, such a gap between the communist's word and deed did not disturb him. The ability to "display" his knowledge "brilliantly" eclipsed everything.

A pointed conversation took place concerning the shortcomings mentioned here at the election meetings in the party organizations.

"I believe that we should note any manifestation of formalism in such a most important matter as our political training," said Major V. Zaytsev. "And not only note, but also combat it decisively. It would appear that obviously there is no need to speak of this. For today we should speak of something greater--of how to raise all our training to the level of the requirements of the June CPSU Central Committee plenum...."

I attended several party election meetings and the speakers stressed the same thought everywhere. They said that now beneficial processes are occurring in this plane. For example, elements of the problem method of instruction which is called upon to attune people to more creative understanding of the material being studied are being introduced in lectures and seminars. The students are given assignments for the special working out of one of the questions of the forthcoming seminar with an analysis of the affairs in the military collective--as it is called, in close unity of theory and practice. The reports of communists are heard more and more frequently in party organizations, in which regard special attention is devoted to the way a party member raises his ideological level and how much he is able to conduct political work among people in the spirit of the party's contemporary requirements. And, of course, special attention is devoted to the leaders of groups for the Marxist-Leninist training of the officers. For in essence, they set the tone for everything.

On one of the party election meetings, for example, they spoke of Colonel A. Oslyaka. They noted his high sense of responsibility, his creative approach to matters, and his daily concern for the political training of the officers.

...Here he spoke to students of a group with a regular lecture--as always pithy and interesting. Some time passed. The propagandist set off for the library. He turned in a pile of books and took others. He was interested in the library books of the group's students. He learned, in particular, that Captain A. Medvedev had already read much of what was recommended for preparation for the seminar. This was also confirmed in a conversation with Medvedev himself. But here Captain V. Baranov for some reason decided to be satisfied only with what he managed to jot down on the lecture. Oslyaka advised Baranov to display greater initiative in training and he recommended a subject for a paper to him. The leader devoted much attention to Senior Lieutenant G. Pavlov who was on regular leave and missed several lessons in a row. The group leader directed the students' preparation for the seminar patiently, unobtrusively, and somehow little by little. And you see, officer Oslyaka has not a bit fewer service and other concerns than the propagandists whose names were mentioned above. But his attitude toward the assignment given to him itself was different. The accomplishment of the duties of leader of a Marxist-Leninist training group, as he himself stresses, is a matter of his honor and party conscience.

Seminars take place interestingly in the group. The propagandist actually arouses a living thought in the students and gives it movement. For him, the problem method of instruction is not "a secret behind seven seals," but something without which one cannot get by today. And therefore, lessons in the group always proceed actively, in the form of a lively discussion of urgent problems of theory and practice and in their close unity, and they creatively "charge" people for the successful accomplishment of the tasks facing them.

It is worth telling about the principled nature and objectivity with which Arnol'd Mikhaylovich evaluates the students. Giving its due to the level of the lessons, at the same time he considers their service and social activity and their personal contribution to the struggle for a further rise in combat readiness and the strengthening of discipline. Of course, the students should be well known for this. And the leader does not limit his contacts with them only to service relations; he initiates a conversation with an officer at a free moment, visits him at home, delves into his style of work with subordinates....

But can Major A. Izbash, let us say, evaluate his students comprehensively and objectively if he only shrugged his shoulders at the question, which was directed to him, of how they perform their service and party duties: he didn't go into the matter, he says. Officers Rybin and Kopytko have approximately the same knowledge of people, which in no small measure explains their high evaluations of the students which were not confirmed by the check.

It was noted at the party election meetings that whether there is consistency in this work also affects the quality of the political training and political self-education of the officers. It is ensured by Colonel Oslyaka and other leading propagandists. But there is a different picture here in the group of the same Lieutenant Colonel L. Kravets. In giving a lecture, let us say, he seems to forget about the students until the day designated for the seminar. The students often learn about the conduct of the seminar itself only the day preceding it. And here they begin urgently to devise the most diverse methods to get out of the situation without greatly troubling themselves. Questions on the subject are distributed hastily and speakers and co-speakers are appointed. Since little time remains for preparation, everything is reduced to a cursory review of old abstracts, newspaper and journal excerpts, and even random materials in general.

In the course of the meeting, many proposals were expressed on the further improvement of the Marxist-Leninist training of officers in the spirit of the requirements of the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. In particular Majors I. Sibov, S. Tresvyatskiy, and V. Kostenko and Captain V. Zagorko spoke of this. It was noted that in some party organizations questions of the ideological tempering of communists are touched upon only at election meetings, and they should be analyzed more often. Or the following problem. Often the leader of the lessons alone gives lectures for the students. But you see, in the unit there is an agitation-propaganda group which should also work actively on this direction. It was stressed that party committees and bureaus should struggle more objectively and persistently for the depth of both the instruction and self-education of the officers and not permit those very "shallows" about which those who gave addresses at the meetings spoke so pointedly.

And, of course, the personal demand from each one should be raised: how the duty of a party member which is prescribed by the regulation--to master Marxist-Leninist theory and raise one's ideological level--is accomplished. For the life's position of the communist, and the combat vitality of the party organization, and its influence on the combat readiness of the subunit and unit depend on this.

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CSO: 1801/098

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

OUTSTANDING POLITICAL OFFICER

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Lt Col Yu. Krasikov: "The Propagandist"]

[Text] The discussion took an unpleasant turn.

"According to you, Valeriy Alekseyevich," Lieutenant Colonel V. Shanturin said heatedly. "One has to weave almost a love theme into the lecture. I'm sorry, but this is a novel."

"We will probably not write a novel," Major V. Kuznetsov answered with a smile, "but one needs to talk with the men in a humane way, simply, intelligibly and interestingly."

The day before Lieutenant Colonel Shanturin, a member of the agitation and propaganda team, had brought a text he had prepared for a lecture to the propagandist with the division's political section to be reviewed. A considerable amount of work had gone into it, of course. Instead of the anticipated praise, however, he was told that the lecture was not a good one, that it was boring and hackneyed.

Their parting had been cool. "I need to get back with him, to convince him," Kuznetsov decided. He was unable to do so in the days immediately ahead, however. Exercises were started.

...The path turned down into a depression, quickly reached the bank and dissipated in the profusion of stones crossing the brook. Major Kuznetsov was on his way to the company, which, according to the battalion commander's plan was to operate on the main axis in the forthcoming training battle. He was met by Senior Lieutenant V. Sobko, deputy company commander for political affairs. He was invited to look at the plans, the visual agitation, the news bulletins.

Kuznetsov stopped him and said: "All of this is good. But first let us talk with the men."

The soldiers were preparing the fire positions. As he went from one group to another, the propagandist determined how well the men in the sections understood the mission and how enthusiastically they were working. He answered questions, joked and encouraged the fightingmen. Senior Lieutenant Sobko could see the improvement in the men's morale. The work proceeded smoothly, and the competition became intense....

Major Kuznetsov, propagandist with the political section of formation "X," understands that good results in the political and indoctrinational work and in the mobilizing of the personnel to accomplish the assigned tasks are achieved by that individual who understands life and people, thinks creatively, who speaks with competence in the auditorium, who takes into account the conditions existing in the collective, who does not ignore "sore spots" but boldly addresses burning and critical issues. The worker on the ideological front is the main figure in the work of publicizing and thoroughly clarifying party policy and decisions. He is the agent for implementing its ideas, the one who helps to create in the personnel an alloy of knowledge, conviction and practical action.

It is not enough simply for the propagandist to skillfully use words as a tool, however. He must know a great deal and teach what he knows to others, teach them to work in the modern way, to work as demanded by the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Seminars, assemblies and systematic, consistent exchange of know-how are assigned a large role in the training of regular and supernumerary propagandists. And Major Kuznetsov devotes a great deal of attention to improving these forms of training for the propagandists. Scientists and outstanding production workers frequently address them. Demonstration Lenin lessons, sociopolitical readings and morning discussions of special subjects are arranged for them.

The division has a methods office, which makes it possible to familiarize oneself closely with the experience of the best propagandists. Officers M. Umerov, A. Yeflakov, P. Lokhnitskiy, V. Kucherenko and others make extensive use of the materials and visual aids in the office for their work. The talks they present to the personnel are always interesting and closely linked with life, with that which is disturbing the fightingmen. Today, their work with the personnel focuses on the Declaration of Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, the need to explain the acuteness of the contemporary international situation, to indoctrinate the fightingmen in a spirit of great vigilance.

Major V. Kuznetsov, propagandist for the political section, has a large range of duties. He lives a full and vital life. Valeriy Alekseyevich was born and grew up in the Far East. He knows the area and its history superbly, and each time he tells his students about it he speaks with inspiration and love.

He found time even during the exercise to talk about his native parts.

By chance (perhaps not entirely by chance) Lieutenant Colonel V. Shanturin happened to be present at such a talk in one of the subunits. After the exercise he went to the propagandist's office and laid the text of the lecture on the desk:

"Here is the lecture. I have reworked it and it is truly improved...."

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CSO: 1801/170

ARMED FORCES

MARSHAL OF ARMORED TROOPS P. P. POLUBOYAROV PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Nov 83 pp 3-4

[Article by V. Vozovikov: "The Marshal's Star"]

[Text] When large exercises were in full swing, a young regimental commander suddenly divided his forces on the march when moving out to an "enemy" fortified area. At higher headquarters, such a decision amazed some people, and they predicted failure for the attacker. The first attack by the motorized riflemen from the march proved to be unsuccessful, a stubborn battle was initiated, and the "enemy" brought up reserves and launched a counterattack himself. Precisely at this moment, the second column of the regiment, executing a deep and difficult wide envelopment, launched a sudden strike against the "enemy" and smashed him. On the critique of the exercise, where the commander was praised for tactical resourcefulness, he explained without any showing off:

"We made the calculation ourselves, but here the decision was prompted for us by Marshal Poluboyarov. We recalled the experience of the Kantemirovites and their commander in the attack at Stalingrad."

The exercise director, a general, spoke approvingly:

"Well, with such an advisor as Marshal of Armored Troops Poluboyarov it is impossible to lose a battle...."

Any genuine skill is immortal. And the art of generalship of predecessors is transmitted from generation to generation of servicemen as long as the necessity to defend the motherland exists. Since epic times down to our time the people have been carefully keeping in their memory the names and grim experience of those who were able to resist the enemy on the field of battle in the terrible days, defending their native land. And the combat experience and moral example of the heroes and military leaders of the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars are truly our inexhaustible arsenal which eternally is so formidable for the enemies.

Foreign historians of the last war, except for those who are shameless falsifiers, pose the question again and again: how could our army, young like the country itself, being subjected to a surprise strike by the mobilized fascist hordes, not only stop the enemy who was superior to it in numbers, and

in weapons, and in combat experience but also, grinding up his strike forces, quickly go over to a victorious counteroffensive? Where did the Red Army get the young military leaders whose organizational talent, operational and tactical skill and insight, will, and bravery prevailed over the military art of the most experienced generals of the fascist Wehrmacht--hereditary military professionals? To one who does not want to understand our reality, our Soviet history, and the truth of our Leninist party this actually seems like a miracle.

In transforming Russia, the Great Patriotic War transformed people first of all. A new man who realized himself to be the master of life and the creator of his own fate was born in its revolutionary dawn and in the struggle for a better fate.

If someone had predicted a marshal's baton for the Tula lad, Pavel Poluboyarov, an apprentice in a semiprimitive dye works, a month prior to the October events, he would only have smiled sadly and bitterly. Sixteen years old, Pavel no longer believed in fairy tales--after the premature death of his father he earned the daily bread for his family, not straightening up over the vat in caustic vapors and dye dust from dark to dark. It seemed that the same fate had been prepared for him as befell his father, but meanwhile a force which no fairy tale giant could equal already waged a battle for his fate.

One day, the city was awakened by shots, and Pavel saw armed detachments of workers in the streets. "All power to the Soviets!"--the fiery transparencies which had been raised above the columns demanded. And other words, still difficult to understand, ran through the crowds of demonstrators like igniting sparks: "Lenin," "bolsheviks," "socialist revolution." It seems that he caught these words not only with his memory, but also with his heart, because with them the workers of the outlying district marched on the private residences of the wealthy. The workers are establishing their own power--the power of the Soviets--this is what he understood at once and, without pondering, he joined the combatants. And the revolution accepted him and gave him a rifle.

"Hold it more firmly, comrade Pavel," the detachment commander admonished him upon parting. "Except for us, there is no one to defend the workers' power."

They disarmed the police and cadets and created new detachments--it was necessary not only to work, but also to protect the enterprises which had gone over to the hands of the people. At meetings, Pavel avidly listened to the bolshevik orators, trying to remember each word. His political education proceeded by leaps and bounds--soon he himself with other worker lads organized meetings of the youth and created pupils' councils in the schools. After his father's death, he left school, but now the revolution spoke with the lips of Lenin: "Study!" "Study!"--so as to retain our power, defend the cause of October, and rebuild life. Seventeen years of age, Pavel Poluboyarov entered the fifth grade, but he did not have to study in school long. In the fall of 1919, the Denikinians captured Orel, and a threat hung over the arsenal of the Soviet republic--Tula. A military commissar from among the old workers, reading the declaration of the 18-year-old Poluboyarov, peered with fatherly attention into his firm face which was strong-willed beyond his years and said thoughtfully:

"The Red Army needs its commanders. Competent, devoted to our cause, and behind whom the fighting men will go through fire and water. Perhaps we will send you to the courses for Red commanders."

"I request to go to the front."

"Our worker and peasant power has many enemies," said the commissar quietly. "The war will also fall to your lot, my son. And military affairs should be studied without sparing strength, in a genuine manner--Lenin says this to us...."

Could the Tula lad presuppose at that time that for his entire life he is setting forth on the difficult road of defender of the socialist fatherland? He knew one thing firmly: its native power must be defended with his hands....

The commissar did not err--the Civil War also caught hold of Poluboyarov's fate. After five months of training he was a Red commander. The Southern Front, then the Southern Urals. Smashed on the fronts, the class enemy tried to undermine the young republic from within. The kulak uprising in the Southern Urals was headed by a crafty, resourceful, cruel Ataman Serov. By surprise raids, his bands devastated villages, shot activists, took grain from the peasants, and destroyed it. The 6th Armored Detachment, where Poluboyarov served as assistant commander, pursued the bandits over arid steppes, dangerous gorges, and smoldering farmsteads. They fought against the enemy not only with weapons, but also with the fervent party word: Lenin and the party devoted special attention to this. Young communist Poluboyarov often appealed to the local Cossacks and peasants with passionate speeches from the armor of his combat vehicle, explaining the political situation and the tasks of the party of bolsheviks which, already at the concluding stage of the Civil War, had aroused people for the struggle against economic devastation, hunger, disease, and poverty. He exposed the perfidious actions of the leaders of the uprising and their open hostility to the working peasants.

Soon the most dangerous bands of Serov and the Dolmatov brothers were surrounded and disarmed at the Benordak farmstead and Semiglavyy Mar station with the participation of the 6th Armored Detachment.

The 20-year-old Red Commander Poluboyarov carried out of the fire of the Civil War a tempered commander's character, the boundless conviction of a communist in the righteousness of the cause which he served, and a profound enthusiasm for combat vehicles. Captured tanks in the detachment were cumbersome and lumbering, but the sharp eye of the young commander discerned, and his inquisitive mind divined, a formidable weapon of the future in the armored vehicles. This enthusiasm also determined Poluboyarov's life choice--he remained in the Red Army.

In 1926 Poluboyarov completed armor school. It was not easy to understand the "secrets" of the complex equipment with his scanty school education, and he wanted to know it to perfection. Pavel did not doubt for a minute that soon the Red Army would have the best tanks in the world, all-terrain, fast, protected with reliable armor, and armed with powerful fire. Such equipment should be mastered by courageous people who are masters of their trade. From

the time when he heard the Lenin statement--to study military affairs in a genuine manner--he no longer parted with his books. They became his companions, advisors, and friends for his entire life--to no small degree, this helped him to complete armor school successfully. Literally not one technical innovation and not one article on the combat employment of armored forces slipped by Poluboyarov. Commanding a detachment, he tried to check any new idea in practice personally. Having selected the cause of defending the motherland as his profession, it was criminal to be a dilettante--this became the life's credo of the future marshal of armored troops.

Then, in the 1920's, life subjected Poluboyarov's professional attachment to a difficult test. The army was cut back and the mass release of command personnel took place. "The Red Army needs such as you," they said to him, "but for now we can only offer you the post of commander of a motor vehicle platoon." At that time his former post was equivalent to the post of a regimental commander, but he answered without pondering: I agree to command a platoon.

They say that people of such a character believe in their star. One star shone for Poluboyarov all his life: a soldier's service to the Soviet motherland. Commanding a motor platoon and an armored squadron or heading the staff of a tank regiment or the department for the combat training of armored forces of a district, he always kept the interests of the service and the combat readiness of the people and equipment subordinate to him in first place. A crew or an entire unit have been entrusted to you--to make them a reliable, combat-capable element of the army is equally a state matter.

It is not by chance that they noticed him at once and began to promote him when the party posed the task to mechanize the army and equip it with modern equipment. And subsequently he himself, in evaluating and promoting people, was invariably guided by the party and state principle: the merits of a person are his deeds. It was not by chance that already in the years of the Great Patriotic War they began to call the Guards Kantemirov Tank Corps under the command of General Poluboyarov the combat laboratory for the training of tank commanders.

"The war will also fall to your lot, my son,"--the worker-commissar looked far and divined much with the sensitive heart of a bolshevik-proletarian. Poluboyarov went to war for the second time at Khalkhin-Gol, in the post of chief of armored troops of the Transbaykal Military District. Already behind him was the military academy which he completed with distinction. Testing our strength and resolve and our loyalty to our allied duty, the Japanese militarists intruded onto the territory of fraternal Mongolia. This was not a minor border incident--it was more like they had provoked a large war.

Colonel Poluboyarov worked under the direction of Corps Commander G. K. Zhukov. The strict, authoritative commander of the army group of Soviet-Mongolian forces had no reasons for dissatisfaction with the armored service. And the views of the commander and Poluboyarov on the role and combat employment of tanks in combined-arms combat did not diverge in the least. On the bank of the steppe Khalkhin-Gol, our tank and motorized armored units in coordination with the infantry and supported by aviation organized a prototype of a small Stalin-grad for the aggressor--breaking through the flanks of the Japanese defense, they swiftly closed a steel ring around the enemy's 60,000-man army. The aggressors were cleared from Mongolian soil.

In the east the Japanese militarists, receiving a severe lesson, asked for peace, and during these very same days in the west a powder storm began to blow--fascist armies invaded Poland and World War II began....

In turning to the history of the last war, each time you again experience a feeling of gratitude to our power and our party for the fact that they trained and brought up remarkable army cadres. In 1941 they were already in the Armed Forces--Zhukov and Rokossovskiy, Malinovskiy and Konev, Rotmistrov and Pokryshkin, Krylov and Nedelin. And many, many others--bold, resolute, skillful. Let one have the occasion to command fronts, another--an army or corps, a third--a division or regiment. In the great constellation of Victory, their names will always remain side by side, for these commanders and military leaders who were talented and devoted to the party and the people carried on their shoulders the entire heavy responsibility for the fate of the motherland and were able to lead our army to victory. In the most terrible tests the generation which was born by the revolution and to which Poluboyarov belongs proved that it is worthy of the great tasks posed by October and that the person of labor who has become the master of his life on his land is inflexible.

In the terrible August of 1941 Poluboyarov, having given up the duties of deputy front commander for tank troops, took under his command a tank corps which waged heavy battles at Voronezh. He received it literally under fire, when the brigades repelled the furious assaults of enemy large units. The front was stabilized and the corps was withdrawn for reequipping and replacements--in essence, Poluboyarov had to form a new large unit. The time was rigid--two months. He formerly did not spare himself in work, either, and here he worked with unprecedented inspiration and self-abnegation. His experience and heart prompted: he is preparing this formidable large unit, which has been equipped with new tanks, for offensive battles. On the very day when the salvos of our counteroffensive thundered, the tank corps under the command of Major General of Tank Troops Poluboyarov set out for the front.

In trying to rescue the troops encircled in Stalingrad, the Hitlerite command created the special Army Group "Don." To smash these enemy reserves, our command conducted Operation "Little Saturn" on the Middle Don. Poluboyarov's 17th Tank Corps comprised the mobile group of the 6th Army. After the infantry's breakthrough of the fascist defense's main belt, on the first day it was to cover 75 kilometers and capture an important railroad and highway junction--Kantemirovka, and then block the path for the approaching Hitlerite divisions.

On the first morning of the offensive a dense fog deprived the artillerymen of the opportunity to adjust fire and aviation did not take off. Only rifle units penetrated the enemy's defense and hit the ground under fire. Poluboyarov saw how the infantry was bleeding. Communist Poluboyarov--one of those people for whom there was no "ours" and "yours" in the common great cause of the struggle with the hated enemy but there was only our sacred and just cause of liberation of the native soil. He knew that he was risking much and assumed a heavy responsibility, and nevertheless he ordered the forward tank battalion to prepare for the attack. And when the inquiry of the army commander followed concerning the possibility of assisting the rifle corps, he answered immediately:

"The crews are in the vehicles. We are ready to attack."

And he caught in his headphones the gratefully wavering voice of the commander:

"Thank you, Pavel Pavlovich. Thank you for your foresight."

For more than a day, maneuvering in deep snow, bypassing minefields, and firing at weapons emplacements at point-blank range the forward tank battalions together with the infantrymen "gnawed their way through" the main belt of the enemy defense. And when they had rammed their way through it the corps, on order of the commander, rushed toward Kantemirovka in two iron streams. One of the brigades smashed the strong points on the way, attracting the attention of the enemy, his reinforcements, and aviation, while the other units reached Kantemirovka, to which a fresh division of fascists had just been brought up, by a swift night cross-country march. The blow from the march stunned the enemy. In 10 hours of fierce battle the garrison and division which had arrived ceased to exist and the tankmen captured great booty. Poluboyarov together with the operational group of the staff burst into Kantemirovka in the forward battalions. On that day, when the corps received its baptism of fire, and executed its first raid through the enemy rear areas, the commander decided that his place is in the first echelon....

Bringing up the remaining units, the corps again rushed south, cutting off the enemy rear area and sweeping away scattered enemy groups. One hundred kilometers per day--such were the brigade's rates of advance now! The enemy, stunned by the breakthrough of our tank corps on the Middle Don and the swift offensive of the combined-arms armies, urgently threw against them divisions from the shock forces which had been directed toward Stalingrad. Paulus' encircled army was doomed.

"The Military Council of Armored and Mechanized Troops of the Red Army heartily congratulates you and all corps personnel with the awarding...to your corps, as having especially distinguished itself in battles for the fatherland...of the title--Guards Kantemirovka Tank Corps.... We are confident that in future battles with our motherland's enemies you will bear this glorious name of Kantemirovka...as a formidable battle symbol before which the occupiers will tremble in fear....

"Glory to the fighting men and commanders of the IV Guards Kantemirovka Tank Corps!"

Half the war was still ahead. Again in the struggle for the Donbas, on the Fiery Arc and the Right-Bank Ukraine, in the battles for the Dukla Pass, on the fields of Poland and Germany, in the swift dash of our armies from near Berlin through Dresden to Prague, the corps was to execute dozens of valiant raids and repel and launch on the enemy itself a great number of powerful strikes. Battle orders are again tied to its Standard, the Supreme Commander notes the tankmen's glorious deeds with thanks 17 times, and they begin to call their commander a master in the regrouping of big tank forces over large distances in a combat situation. Pavel Pavlovich Poluboyarov was still to become Hero of the Soviet Union, Marshal of Armored Troops, and Chief of Tank Troops of the Soviet Army. But he will remember forever that severe January day in 1943 when that telegram arrived. Most likely, there never was an easy day in his life and nevertheless he, without reflecting, would have repeated the entire path on which he stepped

in 1919 with the blessing of the bolshevik commissar. It was worth living to hear such an evaluation of his labors and the labors of his comrades and subordinates at the hour of the motherland's military tests.

There is no higher reward than the gratitude of the motherland. But such a reward engenders in the soul of a fighting man and communist a sense of responsibility and duty to the country and the people. This sense is also the guiding star of all people of a great destiny.

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CSO: 1801/098

ARMED FORCES

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITORIAL STRESSES COMBAT SKILLS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Dec 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Toward the Heights of Combat Skill"]

[Text] A new training year is beginning in the Soviet Armed Forces today. The Soviet servicemen are beginning the accomplishment of the plans and programs for combat and political training and of socialist obligations under conditions of a sharp aggravation of the international situation. The dangerous development of events in the world was stressed with new force in the Declaration of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Yu. V. Andropov, in connection with the start of deployment of American medium range missiles in Western Europe. In entering the new training year, the motherland's defenders are filled with resolve to do everything necessary to reliably ensure the people's peaceful labor in the future, too.

This striving found brilliant expression in the initiative of the personnel of the leading units and a nuclear missile cruiser. Their obligations and appeals were approved by the Soviet Ministry of Defense and the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy which called upon all servicemen to join actively in the socialist competition under the slogan, "Be on the alert and in constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism!" This call is fervently supported among the troops and in the fleets.

The main criterion of the training of the troops and naval forces was and remains their readiness and ability to conduct combat operations under any conditions. The task consists of mastering the skill of maneuver and active and decisive actions with the employment of all available forces and weapons at night, in the mountains, in the desert, in the tundra, and under other difficult geographic and climate conditions. Success in this matter is unthinkable without the steady implementation of the most important principle of combat training: to study what is necessary in war. Primary significance is had by the improvement of tactical-gunnery training which comprises the basis of field, air, and sea training, the mastery of contemporary means of combat and the methods for their employment, and instilling lofty moral-combat qualities in the personnel. Special attention should be paid to the mastery of new models of equipment and armaments and to the way the slogan, "For new equipment--a higher level of its mastery!", is implemented.

One of the decisive conditions for the successful accomplishment of the missions assigned by the Soviet Minister of Defense to the Armed Forces in the new training year is the high political consciousness of the personnel. It is the task of military councils, commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations to ensure the profound study of the Lenin ideological-theoretical heritage, the history and policy of the CPSU, the decisions of the 26th Party Congress, the November (1982) and June (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, and the propositions advanced in the speeches and declarations of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov. These questions will occupy a leading place in the Marxist-Leninist training of officers and generals, in the political instruction of warrant officers [praporshchik and michman], and at political lessons with conscript servicemen.

The professional skill of the officers requires further improvement. At the basis of their instruction should be the principle: each chief teaches his subordinates. Along with the theoretical training of the officers practical problems in the organization of the battle, control of the troops and naval forces under conditions of a rigid time limit, and the enemy's employment of active radio jamming and unexpected battle procedures should be worked out with them more completely. Great significance is attached to the further improvement of the methodological level of military personnel and arming them with knowledge of the principles of military pedagogy and psychology, Soviet legislation, and the leading experience in political-indoctrinational work.

The experience of leading units and ships convinces us that things proceed better where a high level of organization and the clear rhythm of work on all sectors are ensured from the very first days of the training year. This assumes a rise in the personal responsibility of commanders and chiefs for the strengthening of military discipline and law and order in units and on ships and the strict observance of requirements prescribed by the regulations, schedules, lessons, and agendas. We should put a decisive end to the taking of personnel away from planned lessons and struggle to see that all men are included in training. An important factor in raising the level of organization, discipline, and the combat coordination of the troops and naval forces is the further improvement of the personnel's marching drill.

The struggle for new heights of combat skill is inseparably linked with the further development of socialist competition. To achieve the effectiveness of competition means the strict observance of the Lenin principles for its organization, directing it specifically and in a businesslike manner, and evaluating what has been attained exactly. The lessons of the last training year show that commanders and political officers should be taught the procedure for organizing competition by tasks and standards more objectively, especially in the course of field lessons, flights, and sea cruises. It is necessary persistently to raise the indoctrinational role of competition and to support and develop in every possible way competition between regiments and ships and the movement for the leading large unit, useful undertakings directed toward the economic use of material resources, and the improvement of the personnel's living conditions. It is important that in evaluating the results of the competition equalitarianism not be permitted and that measures of moral and material stimulation of interests be used effectively.

It is the duty of communists and Komsomols to be worthy examples in the struggle for the quality and effectiveness of the training process. The higher the heat of combat training, the more active and purposeful should party-political work be in the unit and on the ship. Commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations are called upon to bring up the personnel persistently in a spirit of constant vigilance and a deep understanding of the acuteness of the international situation and responsibility for the security of the motherland and the defense of socialism's achievements. Here, it is important to achieve the unity of organizational and ideological-indoctrinational work and to conduct it in an indissoluble connection with the life and tasks facing the Armed Forces.

It is the duty of each Soviet serviceman to achieve a further growth in combat skill, the strengthening of discipline, and a rise in combat readiness which guarantees an immediate rebuff to any aggressor in the new training year.

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CSO: 1801/144

ARMED FORCES

ROLE OF COMBAT ACTIVENESS IN MODERN WAR DISCUSSED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General V. Kostylev, first deputy commander in chief of Airborne Troops: "Combat Activeness"]

[Text] The tactical situation in training grew more complex with each minute. Having made an assault on the "enemy's" rear, the Nth Guards Airborne Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel A. Volkov, after assembling, hastened to the objective designated for seizure. However, the "enemy" forestalled the assault force. They brought up reserves to a line prepared in advance, and redeployed to a different area the control point and other key objectives, which the assault was directed to destroy.

In these difficult conditions the command skill of Guards Lieutenant Colonel Volkov appeared in full measure. He efficiently directed the subunits, simultaneously gave them tasks by radio, and received the necessary information of the "enemy" from his reconnaissance. With the support of the artillery battalion, the assault force beat down the "enemy" from an intermediate line and, after reconnaissance revealed the designated objectives, they destroyed them with a swift attack.

The "enemy" did not abandon attempts to block and destroy the assault force. Their reserves, in helicopters, were directed to the area through which a column of the assault force was passing. Knowing well the methods of using helicopter fire support, and continually conducting reconnaissance of all types, Guards Lieutenant Colonel Volkov came to the conclusion that the opposing side might launch an attack on the line where the hills dominated, utilizing helicopters for this goal. He ordered the air defense troops to advance to the head of the column in readiness to open fire. The maneuver proved to be timely. Precisely from the hills the fire support helicopters soon appeared. However, they did not succeed in conducting an aimed strike with ATGMS--the helicopters met the dense, massed fire of the air defense troops. The regiment successfully ended the raid.

In exercises, qualities of its commander, such as tactical courage, activeness and decisiveness of action are revealed.

Combat activeness...The "Military Encyclopedic Dictionary" treats this term thusly. "Decisive actions of military personnel, subunits, units, and forces as a whole, directed to seizing and retaining the initiative, inflicting maximum defeat on the enemy by all means available, and the successful accomplishment of the combat mission; an important condition of achieving victory."

The Field Service Regulations of the Ground Forces puts in one of the first places among the basic principles of contemporary combined arms warfare, high activeness, decisiveness, and continuous conduct of warfare. The essence of this principle consists of a constant striving to destroy the enemy, to impose your will on him, to seize and retain the initiative by daring and boldness, by the skillful maneuver of forces, and by shifting from one type of warfare to another.

The experience of the Great Patriotic War offers us brilliant examples of combat activeness. In the concluding stage of the Battle of Moscow, in the Vyazma region, a corps-size airborne assault was made. Forward detachments of the 8th Guards Airborne Brigade, which Guards Lieutenant Colonel A. Onufriyev commanded, landed first in the enemy's rear. On the way, conducting the assembly of personnel, the brigade set about accomplishing the combat mission: go to the objective for seizure--the highway and railroad from Vyazma to Smolensk--and block them. Despite great difficulties--a minimal quantity of artillery, a scanty limit of ammunition, and severe winter conditions--the assault force displayed high combat activeness and inflicted serious losses on the Hitlerites. For a period of 5 months of action they in fact actively created an operating mobile front in the foe's rear. Covering hundreds of kilometers, liberating more than 200 population centers, and destroying nearly 17 thousand Hitlerites, the main forces of the 4th Parachute Corps, together with the cavalry under the command of Lieutenant General P. Belov, broke through the enemy's defense and came out in the position of units of the 10th Army of the Western Front.

In contemporary conditions, the significance of high combat activeness has grown immeasurably. It is caused first of all immeasurably by the growing potential of weapons and combat equipment, and also, in connection with this, the changing nature of combined arms warfare itself--high maneuverability and dynamism, increased spatial scope, and the swift tempo of the offensive.

One of the major ways to develop combat activeness of officers is to perfect their professional qualities, raise the effectiveness of studies in the system of commander's preparation. In the program of commander's preparation, the experience of the Great Patriotic War, postwar exercises and maneuvers, in particular of the "Zapad-81" exercise, are studied. One of the sections of this program, for example, stipulates the solving of a complex tactical mission in every training group of a formation, against the background of a common operational-tactical situation. This allows implementing purposefully, the training of officers with regard to concrete tasks placed before units in a given period of training.

Instructively, commanders' exercises are conducted with high quality and effectiveness in the groups which are led by Guards Colonel Yu. Yarygin, Guards Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Semenov, and others. Take, as an example, the experience of commander's preparation in the regiment mentioned, where Guards Lieutenant Colonel Volkov was the commander. Here, a detailed plan was worked out to raise the tactical expertise of the officers. Exercises in the system of commander's preparation are conducted at a high methodological level; the regimental commander, his deputy, and the chiefs of the arms and services actively participate in them. Constant attention in them is given to a deep study of the position of combat regulations and manuals and instructions of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Demanding from subordinates firm knowledge of basic documents, especially the positions of combat regulations, the regimental commander sees to it that a thought is firmly planted in the officers' consciousness: a regulation is not dogma and there is not in it, so to speak, recommendations for every case in life. In a word, tactical thinking, creativeness, and commander's foresight come to the forefront.

The best school of combat expertise, including forming in commanders such qualities as combat activeness, as is well known, are tactical exercises. Naturally, on the condition that a situation is created in them responding to the character of contemporary warfare, and demanding from the officers daring and initiative in resolving given tasks.

It is correct, undoubtedly, that they act there, where they support commanders who in the dynamics of battle daringly exceed the limits of the ordinary and depart from the stable schemes of the commonplace.

In these exercises does an atmosphere of creativity always reign, is independence and activeness of officers always encouraged? Unfortunately, not always. Being on exercises with a practice assault landing and combat firing, and in command and staff exercises, one often notices that several unit commanders and their staffs, in the course of organizing for battle, strive not to deviate from the scheme and means of action approved in advance. It is clear that such a style will lead to a pattern, to passiveness in the actions of officers.

On one of the exercises the airborne regiment under the command of Guards Major N. Yurasov, after the assault landing, started a swift movement to the designated boundaries. And here, reconnaissance reported that in the area selected for the attack, the "enemy's" objectives were not to be found. In this situation the regimental commander should have halted the battalion's movement, tasked the reconnaissance, and after the appearance of the "enemy," redirected the subunits for actions in other directions. This did not happen. The habit for a pattern was stronger. Guards Major Yurasov blindly stuck to the scheme adopted earlier. Naturally, the exercise director lowered the regiment's evaluation for low activeness and stereotyped actions.

The high maneuverability character of contemporary warfare and application of the newest means of fighting inevitably will be connected with frequent and sharp changes of equipment, and the emergence of unexpected situations themselves. Tactical maturity and, if you like, the commander's courage, also

consist of at the necessary moment, refusing obsolete decisions or those becoming obsolete and being able at a given moment operationally to take on the new, ensuring success. In this connection it is appropriate to recall the words of Marshal of the Soviet Union M. N. Tukhachevsky, who wrote: in battle, a decision made late is worthless, even though it would have been perfectly correct 3 hours ago.

High combat activeness is achieved also by a skillful shift from one type of warfare to another. Hence the task--to work out in exercises not only actions in the offensive, but also in the defense. Unfortunately, some commanders underestimate the factors of combat activeness in the defense. They explain it by saying that in the defense nothing much is deployed. It is clear that such an apology for "theory" is in error. Exercise experience shows that a commander, organizing a defense, has no small opportunity for active conduct.

In one of the exercises in the mountains an airborne battalion, which until recently was commanded by Guards Major V. Orlov (now he is a student of the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze), had to defend a pass. The assault force occupied the defense at night, in a compressed time frame. But, despite the difficulty, the battalion commander skillfully deployed his forces and means, considered the "enemy's" military capabilities, the likely character of his actions, and other circumstances on which the success of the defense depended.

The following events showed that the battalion commander was correct in counting on active, decisive conduct. Not achieving success with an attack from the front, the "enemy" attempted to gain the rear of the assault force. But it turned out that Guards Major Orlov had foreseen such a variant. Infiltrating "enemy" groups stumbled on explosive minefields, and the concentrated fire of camouflaged machineguns and automatic grenade launchers met them. The "enemy" was in a fire pocket. In a short counterattack, the assault force destroyed the "enemy" wedging themselves into the defense.

It is appropriate to emphasize that in units and subunits which have been named here in a positive manner, in the present training year they will attain growth in the quality of combat and political preparation. And by this, conformity with a law is confirmed once again. In battle he is active who works with initiative and creativity in everyday life, who has his own distinctive sense of the new, and responsibility in resolving tasks of combat training and competition. The development in officers of activeness in battle is directly tied to the general atmosphere of the unit's life, with the activity of the party organization, its work in educating people in initiative, efficiency, and a deep understanding of the complex international situation, demanding the heightening of vigilance from military cadres, still greater persistence in carrying out the principle--teach that which is necessary in war. It is natural that these questions are at the center of attention of communists of airborne forces at the now ongoing party election meetings. Our efforts will be directed to developing these most important moral-military qualities in officers in the forthcoming training year as well.

ARMED FORCES

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD BARRACK TRAINING AIDS STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Zhitarenko and Lt Gen L. Kusnetsov: "In a Creative Search"]

[Text] The barrack training-material base is playing an ever greater role in increasing the intensification of the training process. It permits working out many subject sections of the combat training program locally, in so doing not expending motor resources and time to travel out to the field.

The inspection of training aids of subunits which was conducted on the eve of the new training year in each unit of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District demonstrated the importance of a further creative search in this direction.

In the N-th Tank Regiment the tank companies commanded by Captain A. Nemykin and Senior Lieutenant S. Miroshnichenko are the best in special training. Here, the majority of the tankmen are first-class specialists. Success in this regiment is directly linked with the fact that in the subunits mentioned original training aids have been created and introduced by the curious thought and hands of the rationalizers.

Let us take the company under the command of Captain Nemykin. In addition to what was prescribed, the company commander and his subordinates additionally created about two dozen instruments, displays, mockups, and posters. Attention is attracted by a set of accessories to adjust and zero-in the weapons--compact and very convenient for use under any conditions. An electrified display for commanders and gunners to explain the law of shell dispersion when firing from the tank gun presented itself in a good light.

The deputy company commander for technical affairs, Senior Lieutenant S. Maliyevskiy, Senior Sergeant G. Klepov, Sergeant A. Krashennnikov, and Private S. Kachura applied much labor, initiative, and sharpness in creating the company training base. With the assistance of the communication platoon leader, Lieutenant V. Stepanenko, an instrument was created in the subunit to check the good working order of interphone headsets and intercom cords outside the tank.

The following fact is also noteworthy--in the course of the training-methods assemblies which concluded this subunit's preparations for the new training year, the majority of the tankmen demonstrated firm knowledge of the training procedure. The purposeful work of the regiment's methodological council headed by Major Yu. Pakhomov tells in this.

The training arsenal of the subunits of the N-th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment has its own special features. Thus, in the company which was commanded until recently by Guards Captain V. Batsenkov, when creating additional means of instruction they considered that the subunit had been significantly remanned with young soldiers. Therefore, in preparing the training-material base here they developed mockups and displays with the aid of which prior to going out to the range the motorized riflemen could clearly understand the nature of their individual actions in one or another battle situation.

The district inspection of company training aids also disclosed other examples of the search's effectiveness. It is extremely important that the experience of leading commanders who fruitfully use the training-material base to raise the soldierly skill of the personnel be adopted everywhere.

Lieutenant Colonel V. Zhitarenko
Correspondent for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA

On the request of the correspondent for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the First Deputy Commander of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District, Lieutenant General L. Kuznetsov, comments on the company training material-technical base.

I should like to note first that the men of the district, just as all the armed defenders of the motherland, have entered the new training year with the fervent striving to achieve new successes in combat and political training and make their contribution to the strengthening of the motherland's defensive might. They understand well their increased responsibility in the present international situation and, supporting the initiative of the men of the Proskurovskiy Motorized Rifle Regiment, they joined in the competition under the slogan, "Be on the alert and in constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism!"

In the district now there is no large unit or unit which would not have a modern training-material base, training centers, and simulator classrooms and buildings. But the sense in creating their own "training arsenals" in the companies and batteries is also obvious. Ever greater significance is acquired by an individual approach to the training of specialists and the training process is becoming more and more intensive and saturated. And the better the training base is developed directly in the subunit, the more successfully will the tasks of training the personnel be accomplished.

It must be stressed: the company training base is not created in order to shift the center of gravity of combat training from the field to the barracks. The essence is that in using technical means of instruction there is the opportunity to train the soldier for the accomplishment of a practical task in the field more rapidly and with better quality at training sites and points set up near the subunit disposition areas. Therefore, the inspection of the company training-material base was also conducted on the eve of the new training year.

It was conducted as if in two stages. On the first, the subunits were disclosed in which such means of instruction meet contemporary requirements to the highest degree. Their creators were advised as to what should be improved and how. It was recommended to other company and battery commanders that they adopt from the leaders. The second stage consisted of a check of how much everything better had been adopted in the subunits in a well thought out manner.

We cannot fail to admit that in some places the company training base leaves much to be desired for the present. And here, by the way, it is appropriate to remember not only the role of the methodological councils of the units and large units. Why, let us say, in the N-th Tank Regiment which was discussed above in the report was everything found by the company commanders introduced effectively? Of course, this is to the credit of the leader of the methodological council, Major Yu. Pakhomov--an officer who feels acutely the necessity for constant improvement of the training-material base. But the main thing is that many other officers are working in this direction in the regiment--battalion commanders and chiefs of arms and services. One should not wait for success where they set their hopes only on the initiative of the methodological councils and individual commanders of the company and battery level. Some must be reminded of the obligations of the commander and chief which are set forth in the regulations and which require the study and introduction into practice of everything new and advanced which furthers the raising of effectiveness in the training and indoctrination of subordinates.

The inspection also revealed some shortcomings, in particular, the love of some commanders for "monumentality" and expensive instruments and gadgets. Along with technical means of instruction which arrive in a centralized manner, it is important to introduce training aids which are simple to handle and make. We will hold our course toward this in the future, too, achieving a rise in the quality and effectiveness of combat training.

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CSO: 1801/144

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Training Incident Not Reported

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Oct 83 p 2

[Letter from V. Yashchenko, Northern Group of Forces]

[Text] Dear Editorial Staff:

The following incident prompted me to write to you. I was at the command post when Captain A. Kurganskiy took off to intercept an "enemy" aircraft. He was homed on the target by Lieutenant V. Cherkasov, an officer in the combat formation. He was calmly reading out the necessary information on board the interceptor fighter. The missile-carrying fighter maneuver calculated by him enabled him to complete the interception successfully. The distance between the two bright points on the screen was diminishing progressively. The fighter received an order to fly the aircraft to the missile launching line. At this point the lieutenant heard: "Cherkasov, be silent. I will home the aircraft on the target."

The perplexed officer glanced behind the partition at Captain G. Bagapov. Up to that point he had only observed homing of the aircraft on the target, but suddenly for reasons unknown decided to home the aircraft on the target himself. Unexpected orders went out into free space. Later the pilot said that the shrill voice sounded unfamiliar. He thought: Perhaps the "enemy" had tuned his radio station to the homing channel and attempted to abort the interception. Captain Kurganskiy was disturbed and began interrogating ground control losing precious seconds.

Cherkasov's resounding voice in free space again reassured him.

However, again the lieutenant did not continue homing the aircraft on the target for long. When the target took evasive action to avoid a hit, Bagapov again picked up the microphone. Because of orders that had not been properly thought out, the situation in the air again became more complicated.

To Captain Kurganskiy's credit, he was able to get his bearings in a difficult situation. In a similar situation a less-experienced pilot may have returned to the airfield without the recording tape.

It appears that this case may serve as a lesson to others besides aviators. It is well known that group weapons are used, as a rule, these days. In the final analysis successful completion of a combat mission depends on precise coordinated actions of all servicemen. In the episode which involved homing Captain Kurganskiy on the target, officers Bagapov and Cherkasov did not pay attention to this requirement. It is difficult to understand why during a single interception one officer had to intervene in homing the aircraft on the target and interfere with the activity of the other officer. Perhaps the lieutenant has not acquired sufficient practical combat skills and his senior comrade tried to frighten him? No. Cherkasov was ready to accomplish the mission; he did have some experience homing an aircraft on a target; he participated in preparatory pilot training on the eve of the interception and he had studied in great detail the exercises and the tactical background of the forthcoming interceptions. Then perhaps during regular flight training the assistance given to the lieutenant by Bagapov came at the right moment? Unfortunately, the captain never showed any interest in the young officer's training for responsible work. And he lost his cool during combat.

Unfortunately, this incident did not alarm anyone in the regiment. It was not reported to the commander or the chief of staff. Still, I am hopeful that the incident will be given due attention, because accurate timing of operations in a command post and better coordination of all its echelons constitute an important reserve improving the combat readiness of subunits.

Family Living Conditions Improved

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Oct 83 p 2

[Text] The August selection "Nash Dom" [Our Home] published A. Mitrofanova's letter about inadequate attention given to young families of aviators quartered in an inn. As Guards Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Pachin and Guards Major Yu. Mantrov reported to the editorial staff, the facts have been fully corroborated. A family communal living quarter council was elected and senior floor supervisors were appointed. A meeting was arranged between the women's council of the unit and the young families. A mother and child room was created in the officers' club at the Air Force training establishment. Social rooms and facilities and halls are being repaired in the communal living quarters. The problem of supplying the communal living quarters with hot water will be solved after the boiler room is repaired.

Allocation of Living Quarters Improved

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Oct 83 p 2

[Text] Major D. Kolyada's letter published on 2 August dealt with facts involving infringement of procedures concerning allocation of living quarters in certain units in the Transcaucasian military district. The deputy commander in charge of construction of living quarters and quartering troops in the military district, Major General-Engineer M. Aaman, reported

that the facts presented in the letter have been corroborated. The commander of the forces in the military district issued an order about measures to further improve allocation of living quarters to servicemen, workers and professionals employed by the Soviet Army. Lieutenant Colonos Badrashkiyev, who was mentioned in the published letter, vacated his quarters in the camp, his former place of duty.

Guilty Servicemen Punished

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "Leak"]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel G. Ivanov's letter was published under this heading on 4 September. The letter described the illegal use of alcohol and infringement of aircraft maintenance and servicing regulations in the Air Force regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel V. Zakharin.

As the First deputy chief of the political department of the Air Forces in the Central Asian military district, Colonel V. Vasil'yev, informed the editorial staff, the facts have been corroborated. A special Central Asian Military District Air Force commission adopted measures to eliminate these infringements. Persons found guilty of illegal use of alcohol and infringement of aircraft maintenance and servicing regulations were punished. Major of technical services A. Mikhaylov was severely reprimanded. Major-Engineer I. Sosarev was reprimanded and Major-Engineer A. Kruzin was severely censured. Servicemen responsible for materials were enlightened about rules and regulations pertaining to procurement, consumption and write-off of materials earmarked for maintenance and servicing of aircraft.

Supply Officers Found Guilty

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "Peddler From the Supply Depot"]

[Text] A copy of Major S. Kulikov's letter about deficiencies in selection and appointment of cadres, in particular, officers in charge of supply stores in one of the units, was published under this heading on 17 September. The head of the political department of the formation informed the editorial staff that the letter published by the newspaper was dealt with in the line of duty during consultations of officers and warrant officers in all services of the unit with members of internal inspection teams. The deputy commander of rear services in the unit, Lieutenant Colonel V. Lebedev, was charged with failure to perform the responsibilities of a Communist party member. He was transferred to the reserves in September. The rations supply officer, Lieutenant A. Kuznetsov, was censured at a meeting of the Communist party bureau for negligent performance of duties and lack of awareness of the actual state of affairs. The NCO in charge of the supply store, Warrant Officer A. Meleshkevich, who was found guilty of stealing rations, was discharged from the Armed Forces and tried in accordance with the penal code.

Disciplinary Action Taken

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "I Did Not Realize"]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel V. Shevchenko's critical letter was published under this heading in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 1 September. In particular, the letter described the negligent attitude of some officers holding specific appointments to the use of motor transport in the subunit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel P. Poliad. As the acting judge advocate of the Red Banner Odessa military district informed the editorial staff, the facts have been corroborated.

Disciplinary action was taken against Lieutenant Colonel P. Poliad, who was charged with neglect of duties and failure to perform the responsibilities of a party member.

Warrant Officer O. Gurkovskiy, whose negligent attitude to the duties of the vehicle park duty NCO resulted in the burning of a bus compensated the unit for damage to equipment.

12583

CSO: 1801/082

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES DETAILED

Tourist Services Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial Response: "Without a Host"]

[Text] On October 19, a letter to the editor with this title was published from reserve CPO Yu. Abozhin. It spoke of shortcomings in the work of attending to guests at the "Voskhod" tourist center of the Far East Military District.

As Maj Gen B. Litvin, deputy chief of rear services of the Far East Military District, informed the editorial office, the newspaper's article was scrutinized in the district's tourism and excursions section and at a general meeting of the "Voskhod" tourist center collective.

Steps are being taken to eliminate the shortcomings. In particular, repair of the roofing and the electrical wiring of the sleeping quarters has begun. Repair of the living rooms will be undertaken. Strict supervision is being established over the work of the dining hall. Daily duty from 1800 to 2300 hours is being organized for those responsible for the tourist center. The district's tourism and excursions section is working out an accurate schedule of tourist visits for 1984.

Passport officer and registrar R. Katuntseva has been removed from the post she held. A severe reprimand has been issued to A. Voloshin, chief of the tourist center, for failure to attend to his assigned duties and for poor supervision of his subordinates' work. Lt Col V. Pozdnyakov, chief of the district's tourism and excursions section, has been sternly advised of the admitted shortcomings in the work of the tourist base and department leadership.

Road Rules Disobeyed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial Response: "Driver-Transgressors"]

[Text] On September 28, a critical report with this headline was published from Maj Yu. Shichanin. It spoke of collusion with transgressors of the Rules

for Road Movement in a detached battalion of airfield maintenance support (DBAMS), where Maj G. Leont'yev is in charge of automobile service.

As Lt Col A. Bondarenko informed the editorial office, the facts set forth in the report have been confirmed. Maj A. Shirokov, the DBAMS commander, has been removed from his post for dereliction of duty. Maj Leont'yev has been heard at an expanded conference of the leading personnel of the garrison units. He is being punished in disciplinary order. Maj Yu. Churkin, the DBAMS chief of staff, is also being punished for formulating fictitious extracts from the orders to the unit. Captain V. Glinskiy, who was involved in violations of the Rules for Road Movement, is being retired into the reserve. Steps are being taken with regard to individuals who have admitted instances of consuming alcoholic beverages.

Formalism in Competition Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial Response: "A Tugboat for...a Leader"]

[Text] Such was the title of a critical report published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on July 9. It spoke of the formal determination of the victors in a socialist competition in the unit where Capt 3rd Rank O. Samchuk serves.

As Capt 1st Rank V. Sorokin, chief of the agitation and propaganda section and deputy chief of the Baltic Fleet political directorate, has informed us, the facts set forth in the report have been confirmed. It has been discussed in the staff and the political section of the unit and with the commanders of ships. Steps intended to eliminate the indicated shortcomings have basically been carried out. The unit's command staff has begun to devote more attention to the organization of competition between ships and to supervise strictly the performance of socialist duties, also including the forward ships. As a result, the quality of the performance of combat training tasks has noticeably improved, and the socialist duties intended for the unit in the training year are basically being performed.

Better Personnel Work Required

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial Response: "If Only There Were a Plan...."]

[Text] On September 13, a letter from Sr Lt V. Yes'kov was published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA under this headline. It spoke of the poor participation of several engineering technical workers in the education of the personnel of a military construction detachment.

As Col V. Dudin, chief of the political section of the construction organization, has informed the editorial office, the newspaper's publication was discussed at a party committee session and at a party report-election

meeting. Substantive steps have been taken to eliminate the noted shortcomings in political education work.

Engr-Maj V. Frolov, Engr-Capt S. Pogoreliye, and Engr-Sr Lt V. Skulovets have been sternly advised of the need for their more active personal participation in the education of military construction workers.

Newspaper Shortcomings Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial Response: "Strengthening Discipline and Organization"]

[Text] On August 11, a press survey was published in this newspaper under this headline. It analyzed the work of the editorial collective of the Pacific Ocean Fleet newspaper BOYEVAYA VAKHTA [COMBAT WATCH] in illuminating problems of the struggle for the strengthening of military discipline and organization in the fleet's units and aboard its ships, and noted specific omissions and shortcomings.

Capt 1st Rank S. Pryazhevskiy, editor-in-chief of the newspaper BOYEVAYA VAKHTA, reports that the press survey was discussed at a session of the editorial board, where it was noted that much of the material BOYEVAYA VAKHTA has devoted to military discipline suffers from descriptiveness and superficiality. Often, admittedly weak materials that only slightly pertain to a theme are given bombastic headlines, and some materials are written in dry, formal language.

The editorial board has outlined steps directed toward the elimination of the shortcomings noted in the survey and toward improving the illumination of the problems of strengthening discipline and raising the quality of materials published. Additional work is being conducted with the officers in the study of the leading documents. Corrections have been made in the prospective plan for elucidating problems of military discipline. A review of the execution of the prospective plan has been put into practice, with monthly summaries of the results of the editorial staff's work. A session of the non-staff department of legal propaganda was held, at which a plan for publication of materials on a legal theme was discussed. It is planned periodically to return to materials concerning positive experience, and to analyze how this experience is being instilled aboard other ships and in other units.

It has been decided to discuss periodically the materials of editorial authors on the themes of discipline and organization in the classes in the journalistic training system. It is planned to vary the materials of the newspaper's satirical section ("Pacific Ocean Crocodile"), and to increase their quality and topicality.

The tasks of communist journalists in improving the elucidation of questions of military discipline in the newspaper's pages have been discussed at a party meeting.

12462

CSO: 1801/113

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES DISCUSSED

Press Responsibility Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial Response: "When One's Feeling of Responsibility Becomes Deadened"]

[Text] This was the title of a report from Lt Col V. Shevchenko published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on September 20. It addressed the fact that the editorial collective of the Odessa Military District newspaper ZASHCHITNIK RODINY [DEFENDER OF THE MOTHERLAND] at times approaches the preparation of materials for the newspaper superficially and unexactly.

Col N. Volkov, editor of the newspaper ZASHCHITNIK RODINY, informs us that the report "When One's Feeling of Responsibility Becomes Deadened" was discussed at a session of the editorial board, at a short meeting, and at a party meeting of the editorial board. Sr Lt O. Vachayev, a correspondent-organizer, and Lt Col A. Galepa, chief of the combat training section, were subjected to sharp criticism because it was their fault that a laudatory report about a careless officer appeared in the newspaper.

Women's Soviets Useful, Important

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by G. Ankudinova, senior instructor in work among families of military service personnel of the political directorate, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "There Could Not Be a Conflict"]

[Text] Before me lies a letter written to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It contains bitter resentment of the deputy commander of a political unit. At the end are five signatures. The authors regretfully state that a year ago they elected an active women's soviet, but soon its initiative died out because of a conflict with a political worker, and its chairman categorically refused to head this public organization.

Letters to a newspaper are diverse. But ones like this are rare. I go to the garrison whence came the letter. On the way I mull over what provoked the

conflict, involuntarily siding in advance with the women activists, already to a large extent sharing their evaluation of the situation that has taken shape.

First, something about the chief characters with whom I became acquainted. Yevgeniya Yakovlevna Koval'. A teacher for 20 years. Energetic, assertive. Certain she is right. Able to lead others and to influence those around her. A year ago, she was elected chairman of the women's soviet and a member of the public control commission. She approached her work with fervor from the very beginning. Courses in artistic knitting were started in the little town. With her direct participation, thematic evenings were held for members of servicemen's families and for school-children. One could also list other undertakings on the preparation for which the women's soviet expended a lot of labor and thought. The women activists' efforts were valued at their true worth in the little town.

Maj Igor' Fedoseyevich Shaplyuk, the political worker, also made quite a good impression on me. Cheerful, smiling. He appears to understand the role of the women's soviet in the garrison's social life, in the establishment of a strong officer family, and in the little town's microclimate.

Why hadn't the conflicting parties, who recognized the importance of and the need for work among servicemen's families, found a common language?

The conflict, as it was explained, had for the most part begun over a trifle. Yevgeniya Yakovlevna thought the Shaplyuk had treated her tactlessly. In the interests of business, it was necessary to determine who was right and who was wrong, and to reconcile everything. But no one wanted to sort things out, and they nursed grudges against each other. And from that time, every action and every word took on a certain meaning. It seemed to Yevgeniya Yakovlevna that the deputy commander of the political unit was ignoring the women's soviet, did not respect its personnel, and was doing everything possible to keep the women activists from participating in the unit's socio-political life. The commander several times tried to talk with the women, to settle the conflict, but without success.

It is well-known that the deputy commander of the political unit exercises direction of the women's soviet's practical activity. This is not a simple matter, for it requires good will, tact, and a sincere desire to delve deeply into all the fine points of the work, not to walk away from such undertakings as something superfluous, unnecessary, or detracting from important matters. But Maj Shaplyuk was unable so to structure his relations with the women's soviet. He reiterated: "You ought to work, so work, and I will observe, and permit you...."

The members of the women's soviet do not recall instances in which they were called together, given counsel, had tasks assigned to them, and had the extent of their participation in the life and concerns of the unit defined. In all undertakings by the public-spirited women, the political worker perceived meddling in affairs that did not concern women. For example, the women's soviet intercedes for an improvement in living quarters for the family of a sick officer, and this "is not within its competence." The women activists get

together to congratulate the family of a serviceman with a third child, and "this does not concern the women's soviet." It was quickly understood in the women's soviet that the political worker viewed with unconcealed irony the concerns of the women's soviet and those who spent their time and efforts on important, necessary things not from service obligations but from social principles. They understood, and lost heart.

Upon seeing that the members of the women's soviet had ceased displaying activity, Igor' Fedoseyevich even felt somewhat at ease. They didn't want to work, and it wasn't necessary. Troubles diminish. He transmitted necessary instructions to the chairman of the women's soviet...in writing.

After our intervention, the conflict was settled after a fashion. But it could not be entirely settled as long as the commander of the political unit and his deputy did not see in the women's soviet their helpmate, full of initiative, literate, possessing the strength of social influence. Indeed, the overwhelming majority of the women activists have a higher education and solid experience in public work. They say: "We can not only set a holiday table for a soldier on his birthday. We can take a more serious part in educational work with servicemen's families and with personnel."

Yes, a unit's women's aktiv can do a lot. Unfortunately, not only here, but also in certain other garrisons, the commanders and political workers do not make full use of their potential opportunities. I know the facts when the activity of the women's soviets is neglected. Happily, there are not so many such facts in our group of forces. With capable management, women's soviets are becoming reliable helpmates, a support for commanders and political workers and for party organizations in the matter of communist education of members of servicemen's families, of bringing them into active participation in socio-political life and labor activity, and also in carrying out mass-political and cultural-educational activities among the personnel.

One such women's soviet is the collective led by Lyudmila Nikolayevna Milanova. To it were elected 15 persons. But among these 15 there are also volunteer deputies. Each sector of the women's soviet here works as an independent public commission that has its own aktiv, its own work plan, its own forms and methods of activity. The commander and the political worker are capable, and they tactfully direct the soviet's work into the necessary channel. They know the public-spirited women, and recount what sort of education and interests they have, what character traits, what organizational abilities, and what kind of work is most to their liking. Families change frequently in the garrison; consequently, such evenings as dinners in honor of the best families, meetings of young families, and many others are held regularly.

There is no House for Officers hereabouts. The children are driven several tens of kilometers to school. This deprives the public-spirited women of the opportunity to undertake extra-curricular work with the children. However, they have found a way around this. They studied the children's interests and weighed their opportunities. Soon they established a zero class for the older pre-schoolers. Three clubs for children of school age began to function. Children of the first and third classes from the club "Iskorka" in the evenings

take part in the work of amateur talent circles and do needlework. There is a puppet show in the club "Druzhba" [Friendship], where they also organize and conduct meetings with German schoolchildren. The children from the club "Rovesnik" have set up a disco studio, take part in projectile-firing competitions, track and field athletics, and other sports.

Servicemen's families are not left without attention here. In the unit, volleyball and archery sections function year round. Through the efforts of the sports lovers, "Papa, Mama, and I--a Sports Family" holidays are held. Part of the women are studying the material of the infantry combat vehicle [BMP] and are learning to drive it. Many attend lectures and talks, take part in the organization of public services and amenities of the little military town and in the public supervision of work in the stores, the dining halls, and the soldiers' tearooms. It is therefore not surprising that the unit's women's soviet enjoys deserved authority. The commander and the political worker listen to its opinion and support its interesting undertakings.

The potential opportunities of the women's soviets of these two units are approximately equal. But where the commander, the political worker, and the party organization direct the activities of the women's soviet, it carries on active work, and conflict situations are naturally avoided.

Guards Badge Viewed as Honor

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by A. Asanov, participant in the Great Patriotic War: "The Treasured Relic: A Letter to the Editorial Staff"]

[Text] The letter from Maj Yu. Kudryavtsev entitled "For the Sake of the Uniform" published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on September 29 greatly disturbed me, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War. The officer wrote how the initiation of guardsmen sometimes passes off as a formality and what a disrespectful attitude is sometimes permitted towards Guards breast badges.

I involuntarily recalled my years at the front. Our crew was sent together with our KV tank to the 1st Detached Guards Heavy Tank Regiment, which participated in desperate battles on the territory of the present-day Donetsk Oblast. We were happy that we had ended up in a Guards unit. Only, it was confusing that they were in no hurry to give us badges. Later we learned that initiation as guardsmen and presentation of breast badges occurred after baptism in battle. Such was the established rule in the regiment. And everyone felt that he could earn the right to be called a guardsman only by showing boldness and courage in battle.

After successfully completing its task, the regiment was drawn up in full formation. The novices, including our crew, received their Guards badges. The solemn ceremony was organized by the commanders in a brief interval between battles when it appeared there was nothing impending. And I now treasure my Guards badge as my dearest relic.

A guardsman is a steadfast, courageous, capable, disciplined fighter. So it was at the front. So should a guardsman be today. And the presentation of a badge of honor should be conducted in such a way that this event will be remembered and will inspire the warriors to selfless service.

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CSO: 1801/114

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On 3rd page of cover: Article by A. Mikhaylenko, "Check of the Ground Impedence Meter"

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ARMED FORCES

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ARMED FORCES

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON FRIENDSHIP AMONG SOVIET SERVICEMEN

PM081756 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 January 1984 Second Edition publishes on page 2 under the rubric "Educational Role of the Soviet Armed Forces" a 1,100-word Colonel A. Urusov article entitled "Our Asset." It emphasizes the importance of friendship and mutual assistance among servicemen of different nationalities and describes various measures which are conducted in a Soviet subunit to cement the bonds between people from different republics. These measures include the holding of meetings at which servicemen talk about themselves, where they come from, and the achievements of their own republics. The article also includes this passage: "I would especially like to speak about the persistent, purposeful work of the subunit's officers, party organization, and Komsomol organization with servicemen with inadequate command of the Russian language. Officers and activists specifically determine the extent of the vocabulary of each of them and also which of the soldiers and sergeants can give a new recruit effective help in studying the Russian language."

CSO: 1801/190

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

ELECTRICAL FAILURE FOUND IN RADIO NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by Lt Col A. Manushkin: "Contact"]

[Text] Engineer-Colonel M. Shtangeyev arrived at the unit from district headquarters towards evening. As Guards Senior Lieutenant of Technical Services A. Dergachev believed, he arrived unexpectedly and extremely inopportunistically.

"That means that they already know about airplane number 36 'upstairs,'" the chief of the group for servicing radio navigation equipment realized. "Of course, murder will out. Well, O.K, even though I'll get a scolding (for some reason he had no doubt about this) but, perhaps, they will help...."

This fighter had already taken off twice on a trial flight, but each time after landing the pilot reported: the radio navigational system is not working in the air and signals do not arrive from the homing equipment; therefore I made my landing approach using back-up instruments. But when checking on the ground no deviations in the operation of the system were noted.

Quite a riddle!

"Didn't someone cast a spell on the station?" the aviation specialists teased in regard to this matter.

But Dergachev did not see the joke at all. The next time, his subordinates set out the portable control panel which simulates the operation of the homing equipment at some distance from the airplane. Engineer-Colonel Shtangeyev did not bother with questions and decided to look attentively.

Here the technician turned on the radio beacon simulator. Electric power was fed to the aircraft navigation station. Signals are reaching the fighter normally. It was as if everything is excellent and the system is operating stably.

"What is there to catch on to?" the engineer colonel thought with effort. "The aircraft station is in good working order, this is already obvious. And if we weaken the signal of the simulator? For in the air, a much weaker signal reaches the station input than now."

And Mikhail Filippovich ordered specialists of the servicing group to carry the control panel away farther than envisioned by the instructions. The mechanics executed his instructions and again turned the equipment on. Signals did not reach the airplane! Everything was exactly as during the fighter's test flight.

"Are all contacts in the electrical system reliably fastened?" the engineer-colonel asked Dergachev.

The chief of the group shrugged his shoulders: they say that everything should be in order, the station was checked in good time.

"All circuits over which the signal arrives from the homing equipment should be checked in detail once more," said Shtangeyev firmly. "It seems to me that there is a weak contact somewhere."

Said and done. All electric circuits were checked most thoroughly. And a weak spot was actually discovered in one place: during prescribed maintenance, one of the specialists did not properly tighten the fastening of a wire in haste. In the air, it parted from the terminal from the g-force and vibration, contact was destroyed, and radio signals did not arrive from the homing radio beacon.

On the next flight the fighter made a landing approach using the primary instruments.

That was the case. Since then, by the way, Guards Senior Lieutenant of Technical Service Dergachev frequently began to linger on the aircraft hardstand longer than usual and rechecked the equipment.

"What is the matter?" his comrades inquired one day. "It seems that everything is operating normally and there are no grounds for concern."

"What is the matter?" Anatoliy Dergachev repeated the question, leaning out of the aircraft cockpit. "The matter, do you understand, is the contact."

And everyone understood what he had in mind. They say, you save several minutes during a superficial inspection of the equipment, and later it is necessary to be in a state of ferment at the airfield without sleep for days.

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CSO: 1801/098

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NAVAL FORCES

OUTSTANDING NAVAL CAPTAIN PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Capt 1st Rank A. Slobozhanyuk: "Loyalty to Duty"]

[Text] The Guards cruiser "Varyag" prepared to attack a force of combat ships. A missile strike against an "enemy" flagship is not a simple one, and at the last moment it became complicated by the arrival of contradictory information. The commander of the cruiser, Guards Captain 2d Rank L. Derenkov, delving into the situation, did not hurry with his decision and coolly waited for the conclusion of the confusing reports which rolled in.

Later, try as he could Guards Captain 2d Rank L. Derenkov could not recall from his practice another such firing which was so difficult and strained. According to the conditions for the accomplishment of the mission, for a long time he did not know the location of the flagship in the formation of the opposing side and the data about it which were obtained had an extremely approximate nature. The missilemen, radar operators, and other ship's specialists had to work at the limit of their capabilities and exceed the standards in order to seize the initiative in the battle and forestall the "enemy" in the launching of the strike. But, of course, the biggest load lay on the commander. His tenacity, self-control, and fine tactical calculations brought the crew of the "Varyag" to victory.

A missile flashed like lightning above the ocean expanse. The section of Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Shepetko sent it accurately toward the unseen target. In the Navy Main Staff, the missile firing was graded with the highest grade. The cruiser was declared excellent.

If we look attentively at the commander of the contemporary "Varyag," you automatically begin to recognize in his character many features which by similarity make the officer like his famous predecessor--the commander of the legendary cruiser "Varyag" who became famous in the years of the Russo-Japanese War, Captain 1st Rank V. Rudnev. The same devotion to naval service, the same firmness of will, steadfastness, and the ability to preserve presence of mind and commander's dignity under any ocean tests.

They remember the following incident on the ship. The cruise lasted for about a week on the stormy sea. Very important missions were accomplished, and Derenkov was on the bridge constantly, at a stretch. The cruise ended. The officers

assembled in the wardroom for the summing up of its results. They awaited the commander. He appeared cheerful and smart as always. As if there were no sleepless night and exhausting storm behind him. A thorough critique, based on principles, of what had been achieved on the cruise and an animated discussion of unresolved problems took place. And many of them had accumulated at that time. For not long before Derenkov was appointed commander of the ship it had lost its former high position. Here indoctrinational work was often replaced by general appeals. There were gaps in the seamen's special training.

In the unit they expected a quick change for the better and hoped to see in the new commander of the cruiser a demanding, strict chief capable of reviving the "Varyag's" former glory. Communist Guards Captain 2d Rank Derenkov justified the hopes which had been placed in him. Skillfully relying on the party organization, he united the collective and lifted it for the struggle to eliminate shortcomings and achieve high successes. Much actually changed with his arrival and a creative, businesslike environment was established on the ship. The growth in the commander's authority was greatly furthered by his striving to evaluate the labor of subordinates objectively, from final results, and the skillful combination of demandingness with respect for people. The Guards captain 2d rank also evaluated his own achievements exactly. At a substantial age he, a submariner in the past, began anew to study the tactics of missile employment literally from the beginning. But in return, he soon conversed with acknowledged masters of missile strikes on equal grounds, amazing them with his high competence in special questions.

Now the crew of the "Varyag" is capable of accomplishing the most important missions. The cruiser has been firmly established among the leading ships in the fleet. It has rightly been awarded the Pennant of the Soviet Minister of Defense for courage and military valor.

[Photo not reproduced]

In the photo: Wearer of the Orders of the Red Star and "For service to the Motherland in the Soviet Armed Forces," 3d class, Guards Captain 2d Rank L. Derenkov.

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CSO: 1801/144

SPECIAL TROUPS

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION SUCCESSES, PROBLEMS EXAMINED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Col B. Korchmar', Red Banner Odessa Military District: "On the Basis of Complete Sets of Supplies"]

[Text] When they make the joking statement, "It's no trouble at all for us to build a house!", they usually add: "If the suppliers provide everything necessary." Yes, material and technical support is an extremely important element in construction. The smooth and uninterrupted process of the work depends greatly upon that main economic indicator--the labor productivity of the construction workers.

"The key task in the economic area," Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated at the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "is that of drastically enhancing labor productivity. We must attempt to achieve the highest world level in this area."

The work experience of the collectives of military construction workers has convincingly demonstrated that the return from the labor and its effectiveness are increased only at those construction sites where material and technical support is arranged on a progressive basis.

The responsible and frankly, troublesome, matter of supply in our district has been assigned to workers with the so-called production process acquisition service. It provides the construction projects with all of the materials and parts--from nails to large prefabricated structural elements. It does this in accordance with a specific time schedule and in quantities conforming to the designs of the building and installations.

Workers with the production process acquisition service have done a great deal during the current five-year period to improve engineer support for the construction projects. They have improved the organization of deliveries and significantly regulated relations between subcontractors and specialized subdivisions, as a result of which the schedules for deliveries of structural elements and materials to the construction sites are being followed more precisely.

There are dispatchers at the sites for establishing closer contact with the construction sections and sometimes, with the individual teams. Together with

representatives of the UNR [work supervisor's section], they determine the quantity of articles and materials necessary for the next day and the days immediately ahead and report this information to the production dispatching section, which is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Yunge, a veteran supply worker. Requisitions are ordinarily filled the day after they are submitted.

We can also credit our aktiv with expanding the quantity of through shipments--that is, shipments of bricks, cement, metal and other construction materials which travel in the cars directly to the construction sites, bypassing the intermediate depots. Transit shipments presently account for around 60 percent of the total. This has reduced outlays for processing, storing, unloading and loading materials. Losses have also been reduced, although we have not yet managed to reduce them to the minimum. We still have large losses due to inadequate mechanization of loading and unloading operations at the construction sites, where manual labor predominates. This is not a simple problem. We need to build sidetracks to the warehouses, make more efficient use of the small-scale mechanization equipment and adopt containerized shipping more extensively, especially for materials in separate pieces, free-flowing materials and materials in paste form.

And we are working on this. We are already manufacturing various covered and open pallets, which are significantly simplifying the unloading of materials. More elements and materials are being packed in containers at the acquisition bases.

I should put in a good word for our efficiency experts at this point. The innovators have come up with various devices which have considerably accelerated the processing of cargo at the depots and the large construction sites. The group of efficiency experts in the section headed by Major N. Chernysh performs especially fruitfully. They have significantly reduced the portion of manual labor in the loading and unloading operations.

We have also reduced costs by putting into operation facilities for our own production base. We previously hauled asphalt dozens of kilometers, for example. We now have our own plant. It is calculated that the cost of building it will be recouped in 2 to 3 years, since the cost of the asphaltting and concreting work has been reduced considerably.

Our finishing materials shop also operates thriftily, preparing glass, wallpaper, paints and other materials in accordance with advance orders. Suffice it to say that the delivery to the construction sites of finished parts and materials matched to the dimensions of buildings under construction has not only accelerated the finishing operations but has also made it possible to achieve a perceptible saving: 15 percent for glass, 20 percent for wallpaper and 30 percent for paint. Metal conservation grew by 10 percent after the metal structure shop was placed into operation.

The adoption of progressive supply methods has also improved the quality of the construction work. The delivery to the construction sites of plant-grade assemblies and parts and finishing materials cut out precisely in the required sizes have permitted the builders to guarantee the quality of the projects they release for use.

Providing the construction projects with complete sets of construction materials has permitted the construction teams to go over to a three-shift operation and consequently, to accelerate construction. Throughout this year the district's construction workers have fulfilled assignments for housing completions and their socialist commitments ahead of schedule. The sections headed by Lieutenant Colonel I. Filippov, Senior Lieutenant V. Danilin and Senior Engineer-Lieutenant V. Demin have made an especially perceptible contribution to the common cause.

It also needs to be pointed out, however, that we encountered numerous difficulties in creating the production process requisition service and achieving its smooth functioning. For example, we have still been unable to achieve the necessary interaction with individual industrial enterprises. The fact is that the construction workers and suppliers operate according to quarterly plans. This frequently results in lack of coordination in the work. The construction sections need certain items at the beginning of the quarter, for example. An enterprise can produce the items at the end of the quarter, however, and consider its duty fulfilled. The suppliers first of all "push" production of volumes of "advantageous" items--ceiling panels, modules, assembled lavatories--while putting off the production of connecting pieces and other "minor items" until later. The bricklayers and installers cannot lay the walls without the connecting pieces, however. The finishers and other specialists sometimes remain idle for this reason.

We have large losses of funds and work time because of our own lack of organization and our inability to maneuver, to adjust rapidly to the changing situation. There are also numerous possibilities for conserving funds through the elimination of counter-hauls to intermediate warehouses, the extensive use of by-products and the replacement of materials in short supply with those available in greater quantities.

Our present accounting system is also retarding the work. Several thousand kinds of materials and items are concentrated at the central base. An accounting card is kept for each of them. An enormous quantity of these materials and items are shipped out to the construction sites each day. Papers also have to be filled out for these. Do I need to point out how much time and work this requires? In short, the extensive adoption of electronic computers is absolutely essential.

As the initiators of socialist competition at the beginning of this year, the military construction workers of our district accepted large socialist commitments. The supply workers have done a great deal to assure the successful accomplishment of the assigned tasks, to assure that the influential words of the competition's initiators and their deeds do not diverge.

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CSO: 1801/170

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

SELECTION PROCESS FOR WARRANT OFFICER SCHOOL CRITICIZED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Col A. Drovosekov: "Expensive Costs--On Deficiencies in the Selection Process for Warrant Officer Schools"]

[Text] Graduates of this warrant officer school are to be found in the northern and southern, the eastern and western parts of the nation, in any of the military districts. For several years now it has trained communication specialists for the Ground Forces. The unit commanders write to the school to praise many of them.

"You read these letters and you are truly happy for our graduates," Major A. Malofeyev, told me in a visit I had with him. "Also for the officers. After all, they planted the seeds which produced these good products."

A great deal could be said about this school's officers. These are highly rated specialists, who have completed higher military schools and acquired experience in working with people. Senior Lieutenant N. Sysoyev and A. Ivanov, platoon commanders, have many graduating classes to their credit, for example, and all of them with excellent or good grades. Senior Lieutenant A Rozhkov has turned out four graduating classes on the same level. Major K. Nazarov, who was recently assigned to a new job and promoted, left good memories of himself.

A great deal has been done since the school was founded to improve the physical plant. It can be confidently stated that the facility measures up to today's demands. A great deal of the credit for this goes to the efficiency experts headed by Lieutenant D. Trofimov. They receive constant assistance and support from the school's chief, who has headed the school of electronics and automation at the University and the Military Signal Academy imeni S.M. Budenny.

A great deal can also be learned from the methods used for training the cadets. Suffice it to say that a month after beginning the classes, an individual with no previous experience with signal equipment begins operating a radio by himself. The school's officers told how this was accomplished with the enthusiasm of people in love with their job. Naturally, they also had to talk about the difficulties encountered in the work. These difficulties are caused by a formal approach by certain commanders and workers with the military commissariats to the selection of candidates for the warrant officer school.

Let us begin with the fact that the duties, rights and benefits, the procedure and the specific features of the service in the positions selected, and the training procedure in the warrant officer school are sometimes not properly explained to those desiring to study there. And so one individual will take his wife along. Another is surprised to learn that he will not be living in a separate apartment or even in a dormitory, but in a barracks.

As a result of the lack of information a candidate frequently returns to his station and does not become a cadet. In June of this year, for example, more than 20 regular and career servicemen returned to their units without beginning the training. It is not difficult to see that round trip transportation for these people costs the state a considerable amount.

This is not the worst part, however. It is worse when an individual studies several months and then submits notice of withdrawal. State money is wasted as a result, and the forces lose a certain number of warrant officers. Figures for the last 3 years alone show that this is a fairly impressive number. What is the matter?

"There are several causes," said Major A. Sleptsov, the school's deputy chief for political affairs. "I shall name the main ones. First of all, the officials who select the candidates for the warrant officer school do not get to know the people well. Some regular servicemen come to the school in order to serve out their time and be discharged. Another cause of the situation is the fact that the men are sometimes promised administrative assignments upon completing the training, and our school does not prepare them for this. Upon learning this, some cadets submit notice of withdrawal.

I would note incidentally that people sometimes study at the school even though they know that they cannot use the signalman's specialty. Why do they do this? Because they need to gain the rank of warrant officer. They enter the school with the commander's blessing in order to receive it. Cadet G. Vladimirov from the Leningrad Military District, for example, was a cooking instructor in the unit and planned to continue as such after completing the school. And this is not an isolated case. The statistics show that something on the order of 10-15 percent of the total number of cadets are in Vladimirov's category. Once again, this costs the state a great deal. Funds and time are spent training specialists who will not be used as such. In addition to everything else, these people are not diligent in the training and have a negative influence upon those around them.

I feel that I should also mention the so-called technical matters having to do with filling out the personal files of the cadets and sending them in. Ordinarily, something on the order of 40 percent of the personal files have been received by the beginning of the training period. The rest arrive 2 or even 3 months later. They frequently lack the most essential documents. As a result, some of the cadets receive training in a field other than that needed in the specific unit, while others begin studying the special subjects after a long delay. In addition, some cadets arrive 10 days or so after classes have begun, and this makes it necessary to speed up their training.

In some cases candidates are sent to the school, who have to be sent back immediately or after a certain period of time because they lack the capability or have poor moral qualities. I. Shibalka, K. Karachun, and A. Batrakov were dropped this year, for example. They were selected for the training by the Oktyabrskiy Rayon Military Commissariat in the city of Minsk, the OGVK [combined? city military commissariat] in the city of Baranovichi and the Borisov City Military Commissariat.

We need to give proper credit to the officers at the school. They work conscientiously, constantly seek ways to make the training and indoctrinational work more effective, and they spare no effort to see that their graduates measure up to the high rank of warrant officer in all respects. The more demanding the approach to the selection of the candidates for warrant officer schools in the units and the military commissariats, the more successfully this task will be accomplished.

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CSO: 1801/170

AFGHANISTAN

OUTSTANDING SOVIET UNIT IN AFGHANISTAN DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Col V. Filatov, Limited Contingent of Soviet Forces in Afghanistan: "A Sense of the Forward Edge"]

[Text] Unit "X", which is a part of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Forces in Afghanistan, received a rating of "four," four points, for the past training year. Four times it has been awarded the Challenge Red Banner....

Points are statistics. Statistics sometimes have to be clarified, to be interpreted. Just what do the four points received by Unit "X" mean?

Well, as an example, the number of people rewarded for success in the combat and political training increased 3-fold compared with 1980. Broken down into categories, the increase was 10-fold for warrant officers, 4-fold for NCO's, 6-fold for soldiers.... And the number of infractions of military discipline were cut in half, compared with the previous year. Party organizations have been created in all the subunits.

The military unit is stationed in a valley with a river flowing through it. It is somewhat similar to our Ural region. Terraced vineyards rise from the river up the hills. This is somewhat similar perhaps to our Transcaucasus, perhaps to Moldavia. Not far off loom the sharp peaks of steep mountains--exactly like our Kirghizia or Turkmenia. If one really wants to, and if one looks closely, at a certain time one can also detect a piece of our Nonchernozem Zone, of the Transcarpathian and the Crimean mountains.

It is very important for a man from the Urals, as an example, to be able to see something of the Urals, for him from the Transcaucasus to see something of his native parts, for the Carpathians and Tyumen and the Baltic area to be recognizable here.... Where does the homeland begin? This is an eternal question. It is most important to come up with the correct answer. And this is in great part the focus of party-political work in the unit.

International assistance sometimes involves the concept of the forward edge. The forward edge of the struggle. There is a forward edge and there is a sense of the forward edge. It is very well developed in the Border Troops, as an example, when their entire homeland lies behind them. There are situations, however, in

which the Border Troops find themselves far from the forward edge, and motorized riflemen and tankmen, airmen and combat engineers, motor vehicle drivers... are at the very forward edge. It is a forward edge with respect to the significance of the situation, of course. A sense of the forward edge must possess them in such a case, just as it does the Border Troops when the entire homeland is at their back.

Senior Lieutenant Leonid Sterinovich, deputy commander for political affairs in a combat engineer company, has now served 6 months in our limited military contingent in Afghanistan. A native of Belorussia, he is blond, blue-eyed and energetic. He is about the same age as his soldiers, but even if he were to be dressed entirely like a soldier, even then it would be apparent that he is the senior man, wise, authoritative, respected. This is what he has to say:

"In the fall the veteran fightingmen left our company for the reserves. These are men of gold! What schooling they possess! When the counterrevolution began to engage also in mine warfare, there was more than enough work, as they say, for us combat engineers. What is important in this respect? For one thing, we have to work one way with the American mines, to deal entirely differently with Italian mines and to handle the Pakistani mines differently than either the American or the Italian mines. And then we have Egyptian, West German, Chinese and British mines.... The mines--but that's OK: We can deal with the mines and we are dealing with them. But we also have instructors, various instructors: American instructors teach the dushmans [enemy] their way, the Pakistani instructors in their own way, the Egyptian instructors their way.... In short, our soldier here must have a thorough knowledge of the tactics, the style, the stratagems, the tricks of various armies of the world.... Men of gold! What schooling they possess"!

The development of a sense of the forward edge takes place in just such a situation. The life, the service, the combat and political training and the competition proceed in it, just as they do in the units of all our military districts. The only difference is that a great many things are achieved here not in a situation which approaches actual combat to the maximum possible degree but in an actual combat situation--whether it be a sentry at his post, a motor vehicle driver at his wheel or that political worker, Senior Lieutenant L. Sterinovich.

Sterinovich has been here 6 months, and for 6 months he has kept a diary of his work. Day after day. A meticulous description of each mine-clearing operation. Each entry including an outline of the methods used. "What good is this to you?" I asked. "It's not so much for me as for him who will replace me," he answered. "When my replacement arrives, I will turn over my job to him, along with this diary, so that he does not have to start from the beginning, from scratch...."

It is the company in which Senior Lieutenant L. Sterinovich is deputy commander which has the slogan: "Perform the mine-clearing operations as the heroes of our regiment performed them in the Great Patriotic War." There is a unit "School of Combat Experience" and a "School of Courage." Fightingmen in the leading specialties exchange know-how in these schools.

The accumulation of experience, the summarization of the experience, its understanding and its transfer to the young members constitute the main concern for all

the commanders and political workers today. Continuity is not a chain of know-how passed from one to a second and then a third. Continuity is a condenser of the experience of one person, the second and third, passed on to a fourth: Use it and add to it your own know-how for transfer to a fifth person. In the East they say: "He who is ahead is the bridge for him who follows."

In the combat training here attention is primarily devoted to the individual preparation of the soldier, the sergeant, warrant officer and officer. The circumstances demand that it provide the highest test for each individual. From the very beginning the young fightingmen are taught how to set up trenches and shelters rapidly and dependably in the rocky ground. They are taught how to organize a fire system, how to set up engineer works, how to fire downward and how to fire from the march. Special stress is laid on the ability to perform combat operations at night. Today the unit has veteran experts in the methods for teaching the subunits how to operate noislessly in the mountains, how to perform resourcefully and to employ stratagems.... All of this work has immediately affected the results: The number of excellent ratings this year was almost four times that of last year.

While we are on the subject of ratings and points, we should also say something about the work of commanders and political workers. A unit of the Afghan army is stationed nearby. Just 2 years ago it was not considered an outstanding unit. Our servicemen undertook to help the Afghan fightingmen. They began to train together, to acquire practical skills together at the range. And they did not stop with that. The Soviet fightingmen began to teach the Afghans the Russian language, and the Afghans began teaching the Soviet fightingmen Pushtu and Dari. They achieved great success within a short time. At least there is no language problem between these two units today. We set up a Soviet-Afghan friendship room, the Afghans established an Afghan-Soviet friendship room. How did all of this affect the combat training of personnel in the Afghan military unit? This year the unit earned a solid "four" in a test at the range.

Just what does this "four" mean? First of all, it represents a highly effective struggle against counterrevolution.

The Afghans say: "Friendship of peoples is a treasure." The stronger grows the friendship between the Soviet and Afghan fightingmen, the more frantically rage the enemies of the April Revolution. Where the bullet and the mine are powerless, they put fraud, forgery and slander into play. The main objective is to divide, to splinter, to sow dissention and distrust, to arouse suspicion in the hearts of the people. How is this done? It is accomplished in the most foul and loathsome manner. The following is just one example. In the northeastern province of Badakhshan a group of dushmans dressed up as Soviet soldiers, broke into a village, slaughtered people and then blew up the mosque. The act of provocation failed, however. A meeting was held as soon as the dushmans had left the village, at which the residents cursed the provocateurs. The time is passing when it was possible to deceive and make fools of the peasants. More and more Afghans are beginning to understand who is the enemy of their homeland and who is its friend.

In Shigal, another village, the dushman cutthroats gathered all the residents together and read to them what they claimed were Soviet instructions they had

acquired on how to steal the wives and children of Afghan men. Unfortunately, these evil techniques sometimes do work, albeit in isolated cases. This was true in Shigal, where some panic-stricken fanatics were on the verge of killing their wives and children--anything to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Russians. They use not only advocates of this kind, not only "witnesses" to the Russians ostensibly blowing up mosques, but also numerous leaflets delivered from Peshawar along secret paths and various kinds of radio broadcasts. All of this must be exposed immediately, of course.

A special detachment called the propaganda and agitation detachment has been created in the unit. Maj. A. Fedorovskiy, its commander, had the following to say:

"We regularly make surprise visits to villages and nomad camps with the agreement of local authorities and with their direct participation. These are either long visits, lasting up to 20 days, or brief ones for which we leave in the morning and return in the evening. The detachment has around 20 members. It has a mobile club, a loudspeaker unit, a videotape-recorder, a duplicator and amplifiers. We need the latter mainly for... the women. You should see what happens when our detachment visits one of the isolated villages. All of the men and children gather instantly, but not a single woman. According to the laws of their religion they are forbidden to appear in the presence of people, especially outsiders. Where are the women? Behind walls. And so we turn on the amplifiers so that everyone can hear us. We have three translators in the detachment. During such a visit at least two doctors are assigned to the detachment, one of whom is always a woman. Why a woman? Because, in addition to everything else, we set up a medical point when we visit a village. As I have already stated, we have no problems with respect to the men and children, but the situation is more difficult with respect to the women. This is where our female doctors come to our assistance. They determine which houses have sick women and go there to help them...."

"Our fightingmen counter the vile propaganda of the counterrevolution with the truth about the Soviet Nation, about the Soviet soldier. In addition to this detachment we also have other groups which engage in the same activities. During the past 6 months alone we have used the loudspeakers around 300 hours and have held around 70 meetings."

"How are we received?" Major Fedorovskiy repeats the question. "In different ways. It is possible for us to encounter a dushman bullet or mine. They always see us off in the same way, though. They say goodbye by treating us to tea. Our best reward, however, is when they say: 'Come again'...."

Fedorovskiy himself is a political worker. He is a native of Kurgan Oblast. His father is a chauffeur and his mother is a pensioner. There are nine children in the family. Two of Fedorovskiy's brothers serve in the army: One is a lieutenant colonel, one a warrant officer. The other brothers and sisters work on the sov-khoz or in the mine. In short, Fedorovskiy has the deepest possible roots in the people, in the village. He has two daughters. His wife works at a plant....

The Afghans see him as a person who has received a great deal of schooling from life, and his every word is therefore truth itself.

Someone might ask why we have to prove the obvious. This is a valid question. We have to, though. We have to, because we are dealing with a sophisticated and treacherous enemy and because not everyone in Afghanistan is capable as yet of independently figuring out what is happening. And what is the enemy like? The enemy is one for whom nothing is sacred. Neither God nor Allah, neither the Bible nor the Koran.

In this sort of situation the number of requests for acceptance into the party has increased considerably in Unit "X". A total of 38 percent of those accepted are from the combat subunits; more than half of them are privates or sergeants; and some of them have been awarded orders and medals for the excellent fulfillment of their international duty in Afghanistan.

The request from Private Aleksandr Kondrashov, machine-gunner in the 3rd motorized rifle platoon, reads: "I request to be accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU.... I shall bear the honor of the fightingman-and-internationalist in a worthy manner...." He has been recommended by Senior Lieutenant A. Luk'yanov, deputy commander for political affairs of the motorized rifle company. In his recommendation, among other things, he writes the following about Kondrashov: "He demonstrated courage and heroism in the performance of his international duty to assist the Afghan people. He has a number of commendations from command. He has been recommended for the medal "For Combat Merit." Senior Lieutenant A. Sheremetev, platoon commander, gave the second recommendation for Private Kondrashov.

This is what Sergeant Khabiba Abdulimov wrote in his request: "I request to be accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU, since, having dedicated my life to serving the homeland in the Soviet Army, I cannot imagine it without the party...." He is recommended by Warrant Officer B. Samusenko and Major N. Obyskalov. In the officer's recommendation, among other things, he wrote the following about Kh. Abdulimov: "He has repeatedly taken part in assisting the Afghan people to defend the conquests of the April Revolution. He has been awarded the medal "For Combat Merit" for steadfastness and courage demonstrated in the process and for his loyalty to the military oath. He knows well the language spoken by the people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. This has made it possible for him to perform propaganda and agitation work among the local population."

In his request, Senior Lieutenant Isakadi Amirov, commander of a motor vehicle company, writes the following: "I request to be accepted as a member of the CPSU, since I want to fulfill the historic decisions of the Leninist party and defend our socialist homeland in its ranks...." He is recommended by Senior Lieutenant N. Yeroshin, secretary of the party organization, and Warrant Officer A. Novichkov, company sergeant-major. One of the recommendations has the following to say about Amirov: "In a difficult situation he has demonstrated himself to be a resolute, courageous and bold commander. He has taken part in more than 80 unannounced visits, including those in which he has personally led the columns to villages difficult to reach. He has been awarded the order 'For Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR,' 3rd degree, for courage and heroism demonstrated while providing international assistance to the Afghan people."

I saw many references, recommendations and requests such as these. These are men of gold. What schooling they possess. Schooling provided by the forward edge.

Unit "X" of the limited military contingent in Afghanistan received a solid "four" for the past training year. Four points. A year of service. Statistics backed by courage and valor, duty and life, a struggle for communist ideals. An obelisk honoring the inviolable friendship of the Afghan and Soviet fightingmen was recently dedicated in a formal ceremony in the district center nearest the site where the unit is stationed.

This can be added to those four points received for the 1983 training year.

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